



MARVEL



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ACROSS THE STORM-TOSSED GREAT WESTERN OCEAN THE ZINGARAN FLEET CARRIES KING CONAN'S ARMY TOWARD THE SHORES OF ARGOS WHERE CONAN SEEKS HIS FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH KING XANTHAUS AND QUEEN LEORA. THE HYBORIAN WORLD HAS NEVER BEHELD SUCH A VAST ARRAY OF SHIPS. EVEN NOW THE WORD IS SPREADING ABOUT CONAN'S ARMY OF VENGEANCE...

THE ARMADA

GREAT MITRA DEFEND US! IN ALL MY YEARS AT SEA I'VE NEVER BEHELD SUCH A TEMPEST!

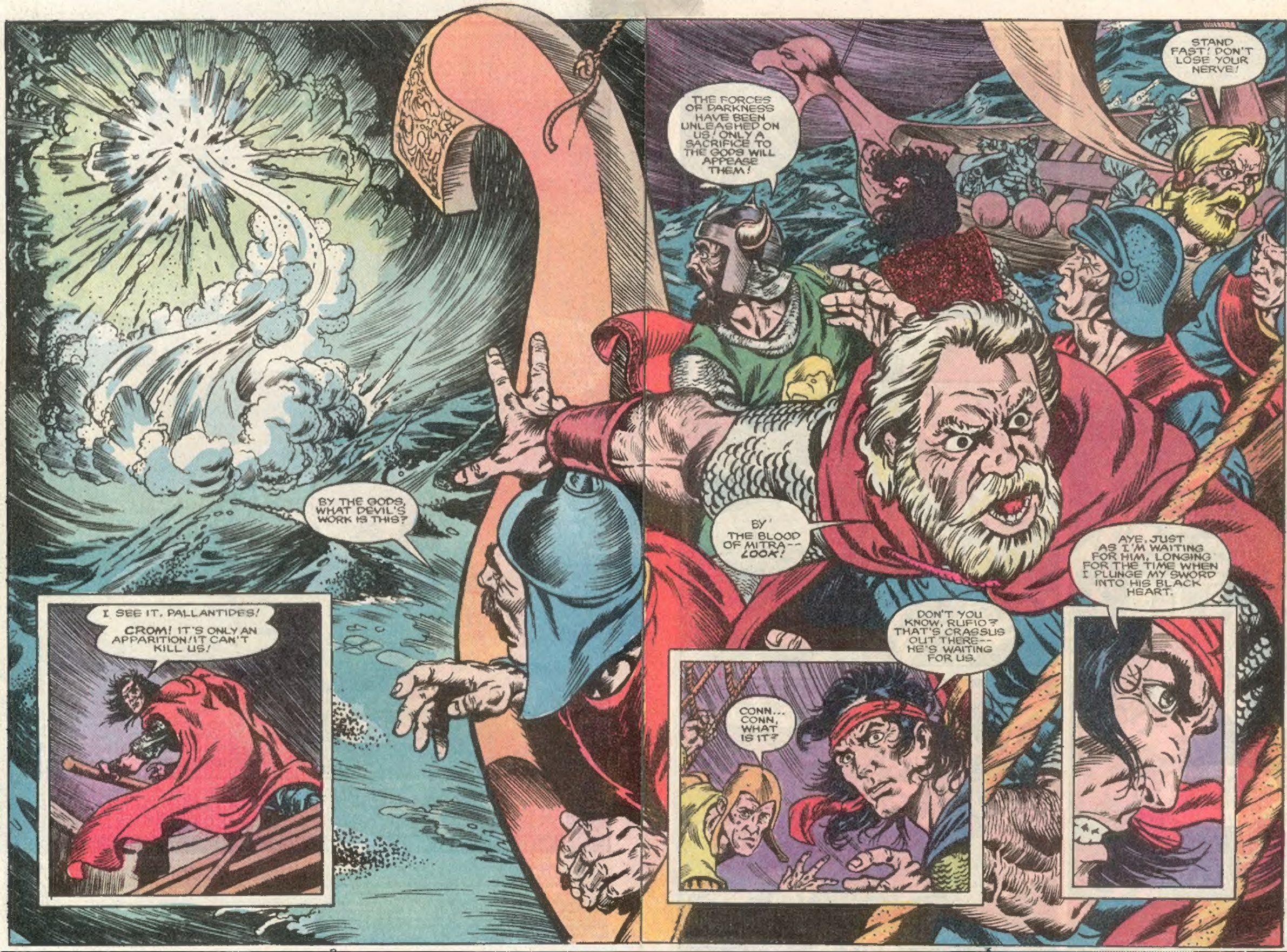
SECURE THE BALLAST IN THE HOLD! SLACKEN THE CANVAS BEFORE THE WIND SPLITS THE SEAMS!

AYE, CAPTAIN, THESE WINDS SEEM TO BE BLOWING FROM THE BELLY OF ARALLU!

STORY-DON KRAAR
PENCILS-MIKE DOCHERTY
INKS-FRAJA BATOR
LETTERS-JANICE CHIANG
COLORS-KEN FEDUNIEWICZ
EDITOR-LARRY HAMA
ED. IN CHIEF-JIM SHOOTER

BUT CRASSUS THE STYGIAN HAS ALSO SWORN VENGEANCE ON CONAN AND HIS HEIRS. THE SORCERER HAS TRADED HIS OWN HUMANITY FOR OCCULT POWER. LITTLE BY LITTLE HE IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A SERPENT AS HIS POWER GROWS. FOR NOW CRASSUS HURLS THE ELEMENTS AGAINST CONAN'S FORCES TO PLUNGE THEM TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA BEFORE THEY CAN REACH ARGOS.

DOCHERTY



STAND FAST! DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE!

THE FORCES OF DARKNESS HAVE BEEN UNLEASHED ON US! ONLY A SACRIFICE TO THE GODS WILL APPEASE THEM!

BY THE GODS, WHAT DEVIL'S WORK IS THIS?

BY THE BLOOD OF MITRA-- LOOK!

AYE, JUST AS I'M WAITING FOR HIM, LONGING FOR THE TIME WHEN I PLUNGE MY SWORD INTO HIS BLACK HEART.

DON'T YOU KNOW, RUFIO? THAT'S CRASSUS OUT THERE-- HE'S WAITING FOR US.

CONN... CONN, WHAT IS IT?

I SEE IT, PALLANTIDES! CROM! IT'S ONLY AN APPARITION! IT CAN'T KILL US!

CONAN... CONAN... YOU'RE SAILING TO YOUR DOOM! THE TEMPEST IS NOTHING COMPARED TO MY WRATH. ONE OR THE OTHER WILL DESTROY YOU!

IT SPEAKS!
IT LURES US ON
TO ARALLU!

WHAT WILL PROTECT YOU FROM ME?
I'LL SPLIT ANY MAN'S SKULL WHO
TRIES TO CHANGE COURSE!!

THAT VOICE--
DID YOU HEAR
IT, RUFIO?

AYE, MY
PRINCE, IT'S
CRASSUS'S VOICE
ALL RIGHT! BUT
WHAT OF THE
FACE OF THAT
SPECTER?

MAN
OVER-
BOARD!

AGGH...

LET'S CHANGE
COURSE WHILE
THE GODS STILL
PROTECT US.

GRAB HOLD OF ME,
RUFIO, BEFORE THE NEXT
WAVE DRAGS YOU TO
THE BOTTOM!

AYE, MY
KING...

CONN... CONN, BY CROM ANSWER ME, SON! YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'RE UNDER THE SORCERER'S SPELL!



I HEAR YOU, CRASSUS. IN A LITTLE WHILE IT WILL BE YOU AND ME FACE TO FACE-- AND THEN THERE'LL BE ONLY ONE OF US!

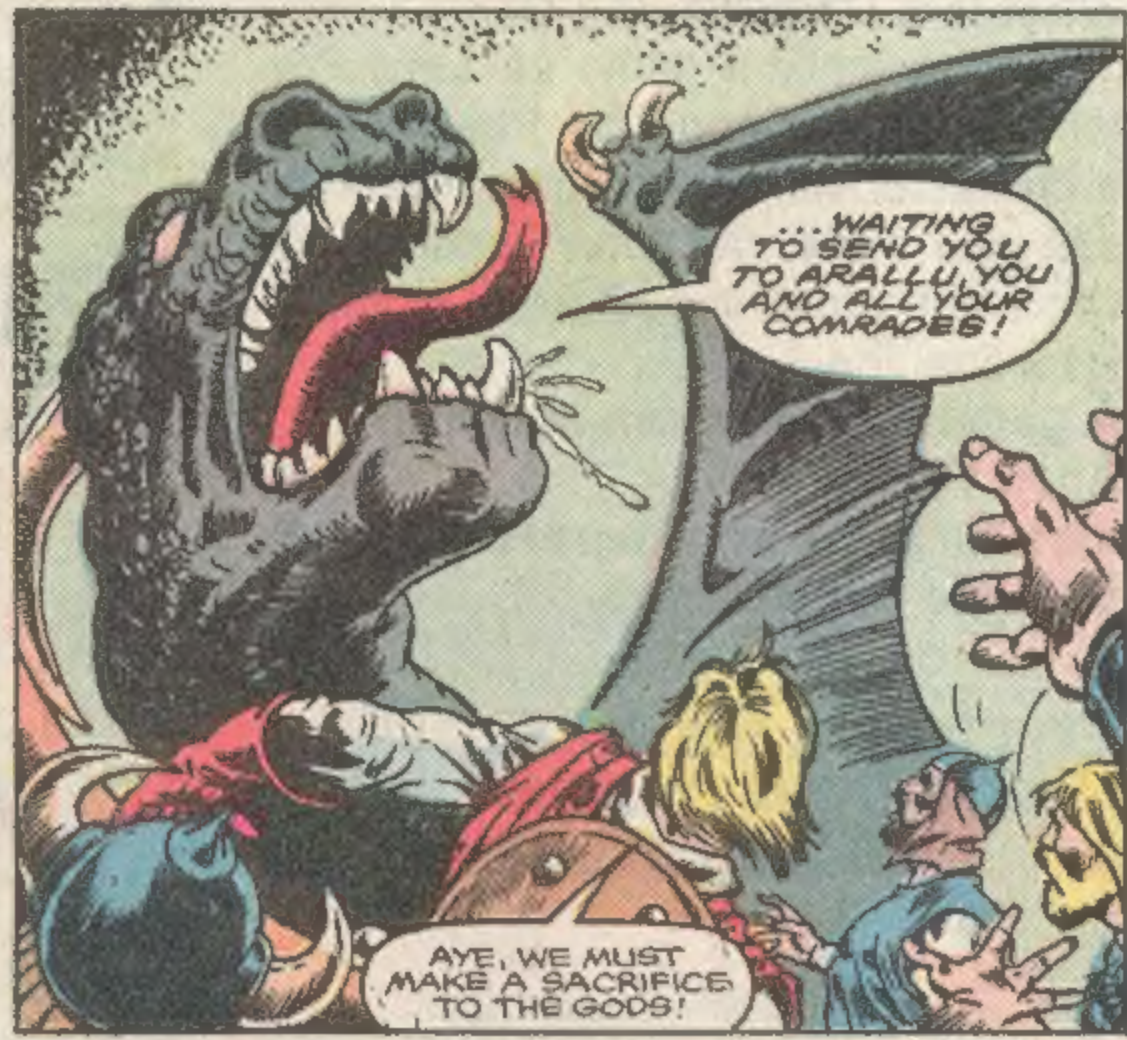
WE ALL ARE, MY KING! CRASSUS'S POWER IS GROWING SOON WE'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM OR BE KILLED!

REMEMBER, PRINCE CONN, I'M WAITING FOR YOU...



STEADY, IT'S ONLY AN APPARITION!

NO-- IT'S AN OMEN OF DOOM UNLESS WE APPEASE THE GODS!



...WAITING TO SEND YOU TO ARALLU, YOU AND ALL YOUR COMRADES!

AYE, WE MUST MAKE A SACRIFICE TO THE GODS!



ONE LIFE IS NOT TOO MUCH TO PAY FOR ALL OUR LIVES. BUT WHO SHALL IT BE?

THE JESTER-- HE'S TOO SMALL TO SWING A SWORD. HE WON'T BE MISSED.





IT'S A PRIEST!

AYE, THE HIGH PRIEST OF ASURA...

I SAID GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!



LET GO OF HIM BEFORE I WASH THE DECK IN BLOOD!

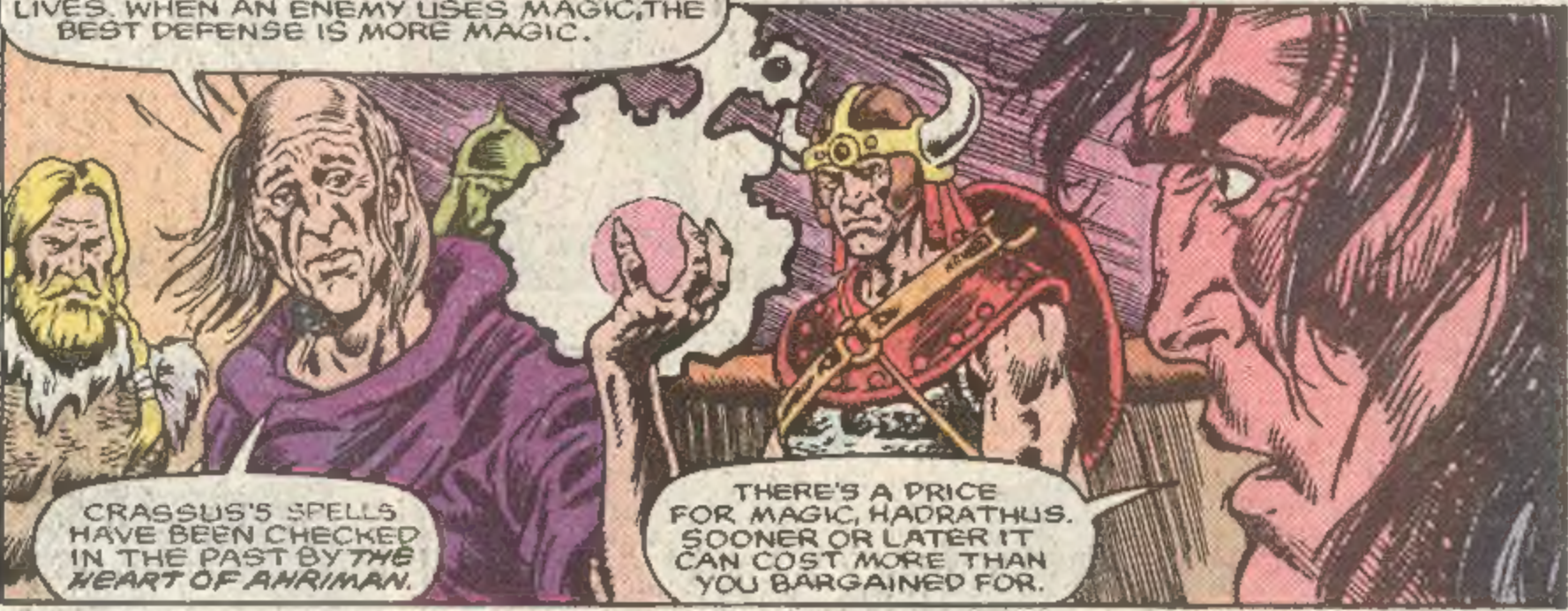
HADRATHUS! CROM AND YMIR, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT I LEFT YOU IN TARANTIA.



FORGIVE ME, MY KING. I STOWED AWAY BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D NEVER PERMIT ME TO JOIN YOU ON THE VOYAGE.

THERE IS SOMETHING I NEEDED TO REMIND YOU OF...

... SOMETHING THAT CAN SAVE ALL OUR LIVES. WHEN AN ENEMY USES MAGIC, THE BEST DEFENSE IS MORE MAGIC.



CRASSUS'S SPELLS HAVE BEEN CHECKED IN THE PAST BY THE HEART OF ANHRIMAN.

THERE'S A PRICE FOR MAGIC, HADRATHUS. SOONER OR LATER IT CAN COST MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR.

THE PRICE FOR DEFEAT AT CRASSUS'S HANDS IS TOO GREAT TO CONSIDER, KING CONAN. AS LONG AS WE USE THE HEART OF AHRIMAN TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND NOT TO ATTACK OUR ENEMIES WE SHOULD BE SAFE.

THEN SO BE IT, HADRATHUS.

LOOK--
THE FIRST
LIGHT
OF DAY!

YOU'RE
MAD, IT'S
TOO EARLY.

MAYBE THIS
GEM HAS THE
POWER TO ALTER
TIME, THEN.

THERE,
YOU SEE?
IT'S DAWN
ALREADY!

EVEN THE
MOST POWERFUL
SPECTERS PALE
IN THE LIGHT
OF DAY.

CRASSUS
WILL BE
WAITING FOR
US, FATHER, AS
WELL AS KING
XANTHUS AND
QUEEN
LEORA.

CAPTAIN, WE'LL
FORGET ABOUT LAST
NIGHT. SET YOUR
COURSE FOR
MESSANTIA.

AYE, MY
PRINCE...

... THAT THEY WILL, THAT THEY SURELY WILL...

IN THE GROTTO AT THE HEART OF THE Labyrinth DEEP BENEATH THE ROYAL PALACE OF ARGOS IN MESSANTIA, THE CREATURE THAT WAS ONCE CRASSUS THE STYGIAN RECEIVES ROYAL VISITORS...

AHH...
XANTHAUS...
LEORA... I KNOW
YOUR FOOTSTEPS BY
NOW. LET ME GUESS,
YOU'RE FEELING
CONTRITE THAT I
HAVEN'T SUCCEEDED
IN KILLING CONAN
FOR YOU.

"CONTRITE"?
THAT'S A POOR
CHOICE OF
WORDS,
CRASSUS.

THE ONLY
THING WE FEEL
TOWARD YOU
IS DISGUST,
STYGIAN.

SPARE ME
YOUR SHREW'S TONGUE,
LEORA. I'M WEARY OF YOU
AS YOU ARE OF ME. BUT IN A
LITTLE WHILE IT WON'T
MATTER ANY LONGER...
HA, HA, HA...

SO THE STORM AT SEA DIDN'T
DESTROY CONAN'S ARMADA,
DID IT, CRASSUS?

WELL,
SORCER' R?

NO, IT DIDN'T
BUT I STILL HAVE
ONE CONJURER'S
TRICK LEFT FOR
CONAN AND
HIS HEIRS.

YOU CAN SPARE US YOUR PROMISES, YOU
MISERABLE DOG. THE ONLY THINGS I WANT
TO HEAR FROM YOU ARE YOUR SCREAMS
WHEN WE BOIL YOU IN OIL.

"DOG"? NOW THAT IS
A POOR CHOICE OF
WORDS, MOST GRACIOUS
QUEEN. NO, TAKE A
CLOSER LOOK...

YES, TAKE JUST ONE
LAST LOOK AND YOU'LL
SEE THE PRICE I'VE
PAID FOR GREATER
OCCULT POWER.
PRETTY, ISN'T IT?

MITRA!

NO,
XANTHAUS,
THIS IS
THE WORK
OF SET!



XANTALUS,
LOOK AT
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO HIM...

QUIET, HE'S
RAVING MAD
THOSE FANGS
OF HIS MAY BE
VENOMOUS.

HA, HA, HA... AYE,
BY THE GRACE OF SET
THE SERPENT GOD, I
AM BEING TRANSFORMED
INTO HIS IMAGE. IT'S
IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?



YES, YES, OF COURSE THEY'RE VENOMOUS,
JUST LIKE THE SERPENT VENOM'S FLOWING
IN MY VEINS. BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE
FINAL STAGE OF THE METAMORPHOSIS.
I'M SAVING THAT FOR MY FRIENDS
CONAN AND PRINCE CONN,
HA, HA, HA...

COME AWAY,
LEORA. LET'S
LEAVE HIM TO
HIS RAVINGS.

YOUR
MAJESTY...
YOUR
MAJESTY...

AYE, HE'S
OF NO FURTHER
USE TO US. IN TIME
WE MAY HAVE TO
FIND A WAY TO
KILL HIM AND BE
RID OF HIM
FOR GOOD.



WELL,
WHAT IS IT?
WHY HAVE YOU
DISTURBED
ME HERE?

KING
XANTALUS,
YOU
WISHED
TO BE TOLD
WHEN THE
EMISSARIES
FROM
CORINTHIA
AND KOTH
ARRIVED.



THE MAGE CALIASTROS OF CORINTHIA AND BRAX-AL-THAR,
THE WARLORD OF KOTH HAVE ENTERED THE CITY GATE WITH
THEIR ENTOURAGE.

YOU WERE RIGHT
TO TELL ME. THIS
COULD BE A
GOOD OMEN.

WITH THEIR
AID WE MAY
TURN THE TIDE
AGAINST CONAN
ONCE MORE.

COME, CONAN... I HAVE
SOMETHING TO SHOW
YOU... YOU AND PRINCE
CONN... SOMETHING
TO STRIKE TERROR IN
YOUR HEARTS BEFORE
YOU DIE.

WITHIN SIGHT OF THE SHORES
OF ARGOS.

I HEAR WAVES
BREAKING
ON A SHORE...

AYE, KING
CONAN, SO DO I.
IF THE STORM HASN'T
BLOWN US OFF COURSE,
IT IS THE COAST OF
ARGOS. WE'LL KNOW
AS THIS MORNING
MIST LIFTS

THERE,
GREAT KING.
A SEAGULL!

THAT'S
NO SEAGULL,
CAPTAIN. NO
GULL EVER HAD
A WING SPAN
LIKE THAT

A WAR EAGLE,
CAPTAIN. I'VE SEEN
IT BEFORE.

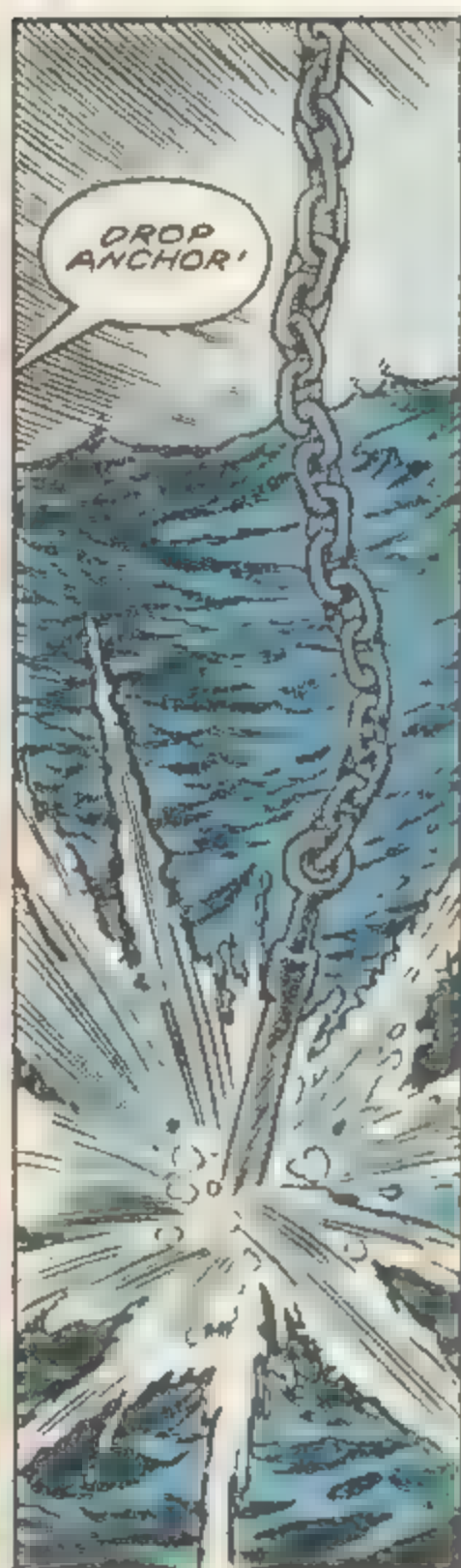
BY MITRA,
A BIRD
OF PREY!

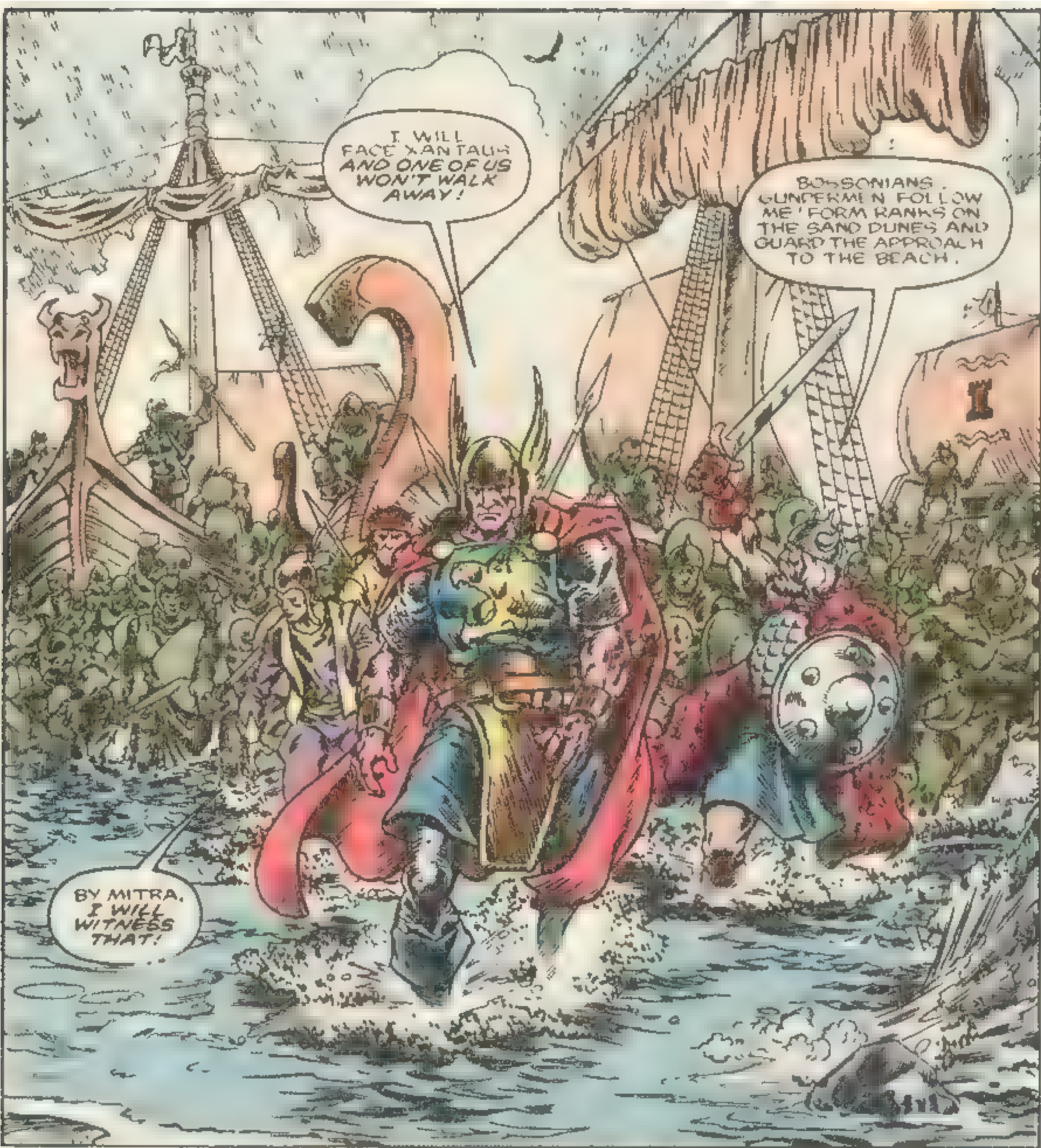
LOOK AT IT, IT
CUTS THROUGH
THE WIND LIKE
A JAVELIN!

ITS
MASTER
SENT IT
TO GUIDE
US STEER
A COURSE
BY ITS
FLIGHT.

AYE MY
KING.

AYE,
THAT'S NO
ORDINARY
BIRD OF PREY
ITS MASTER
WAITS
FOR US
ASHORE

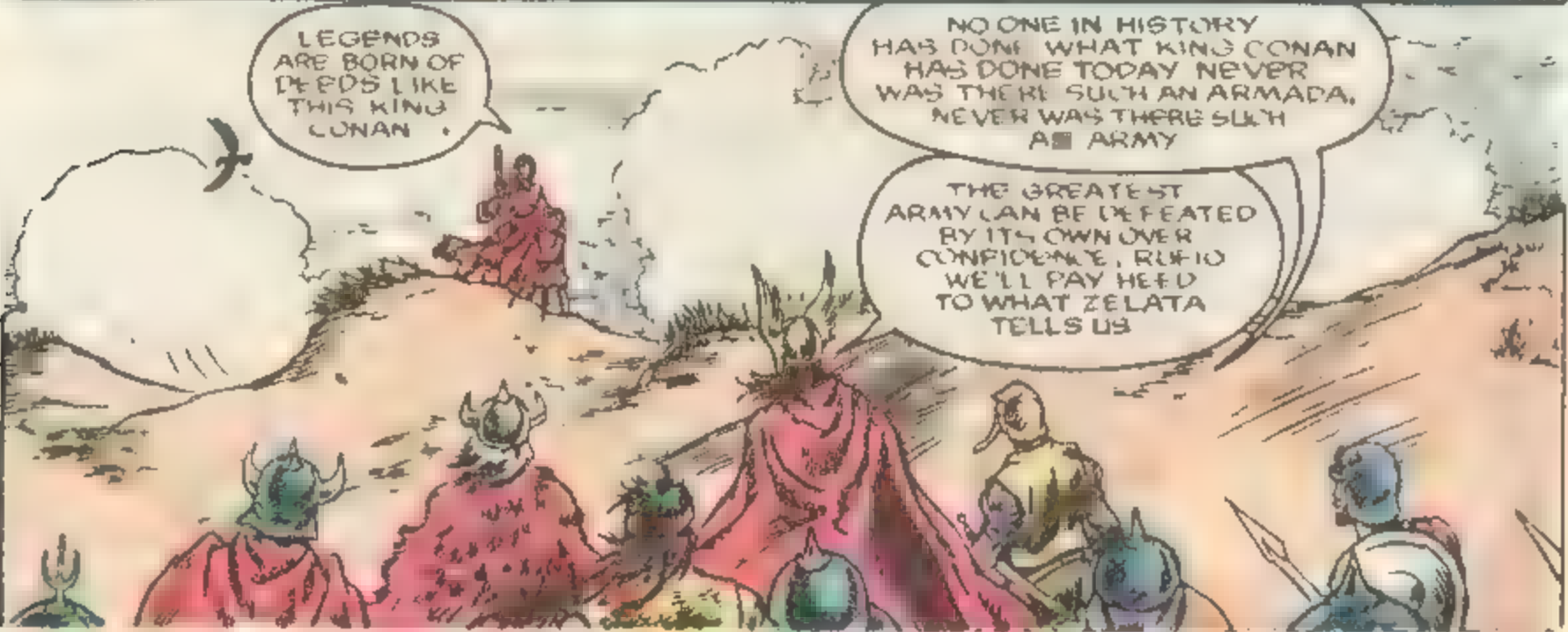




I WILL
FACE XANTALUS
AND ONE OF US
WON'T WALK
AWAY!

BERSERKERS
GUNDAMEN FOLLOW
ME! FORM RANKS ON
THE SAND DUNES AND
GUARD THE APPROACH
TO THE BEACH.

BY MITRA,
I WILL
WITNESS
THAT!



LEGENDS
ARE BORN OF
DEEDS LIKE
THIS KING
CONAN.

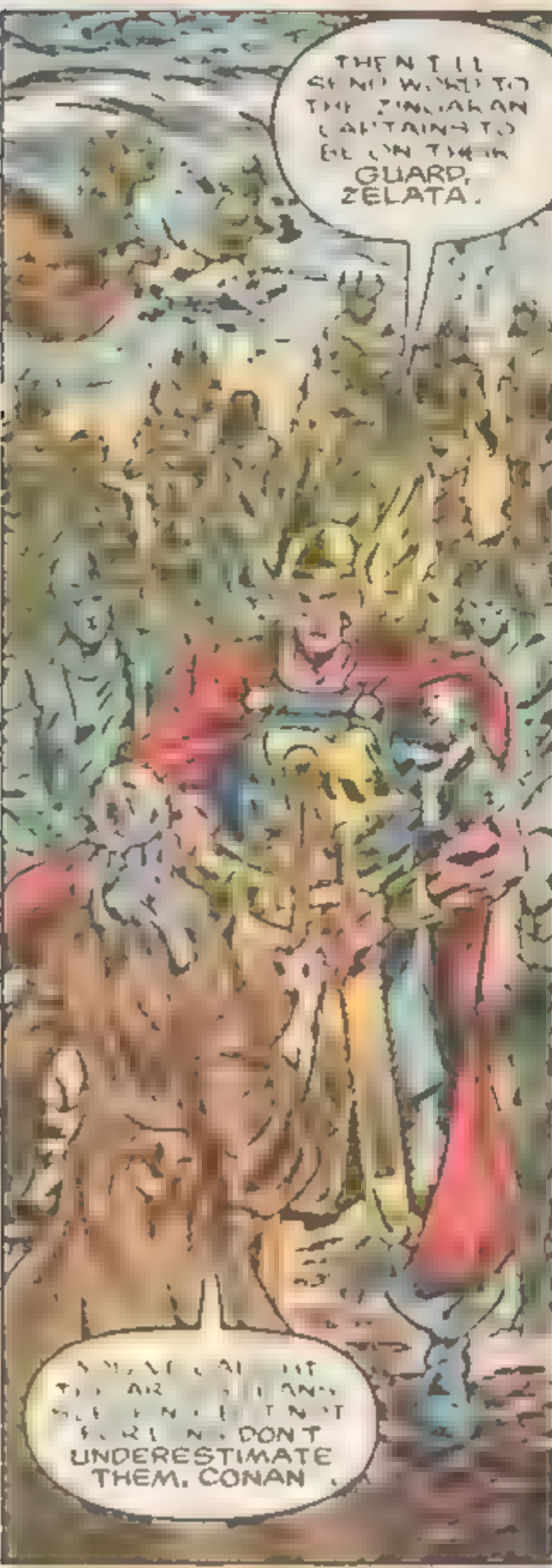
NO ONE IN HISTORY
HAS DONE WHAT KING CONAN
HAS DONE TODAY NEVER
WAS THERE SUCH AN ARMADA,
NEVER WAS THERE SUCH
A ARMY

THE GREATEST
ARMY CAN BE DEFEATED
BY ITS OWN OVER
CONFIDENCE, BUT IF
WE'LL PAY HEED
TO WHAT ZELATA
TELLS US

YOU SENT THE EAGLE, ZELATA?

YOU MAY BE CERTAIN OF THAT THE ARABIAN FLEET IS STILL AT SEA EVEN THOUGH THEY FAILED TO INTERCEPT YOU THEY COULD STILL TRAP YOU HERE

USE YOUR SHIPS TO PROTECT YOUR POSITION HERE, OR YOU'LL FIGHT A BATTLE ON TWO FRONTS!



THEN I'LL SEND WORD TO THE ZINJAHAN CAPTAINS TO BE ON THEIR GUARD, ZELATA.

YOU'VE CALLED THE ARABIAN FLEET TO THE BATTLE BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THEM, CONAN.



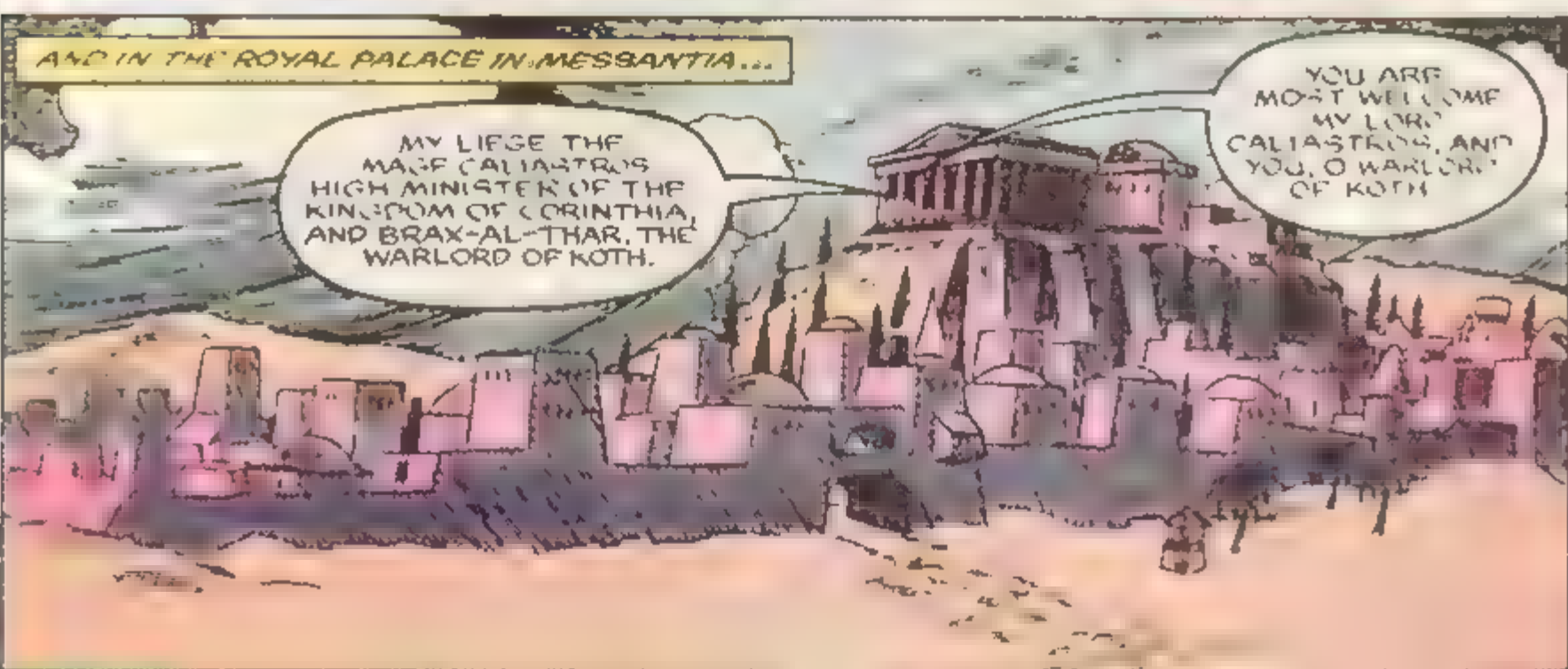
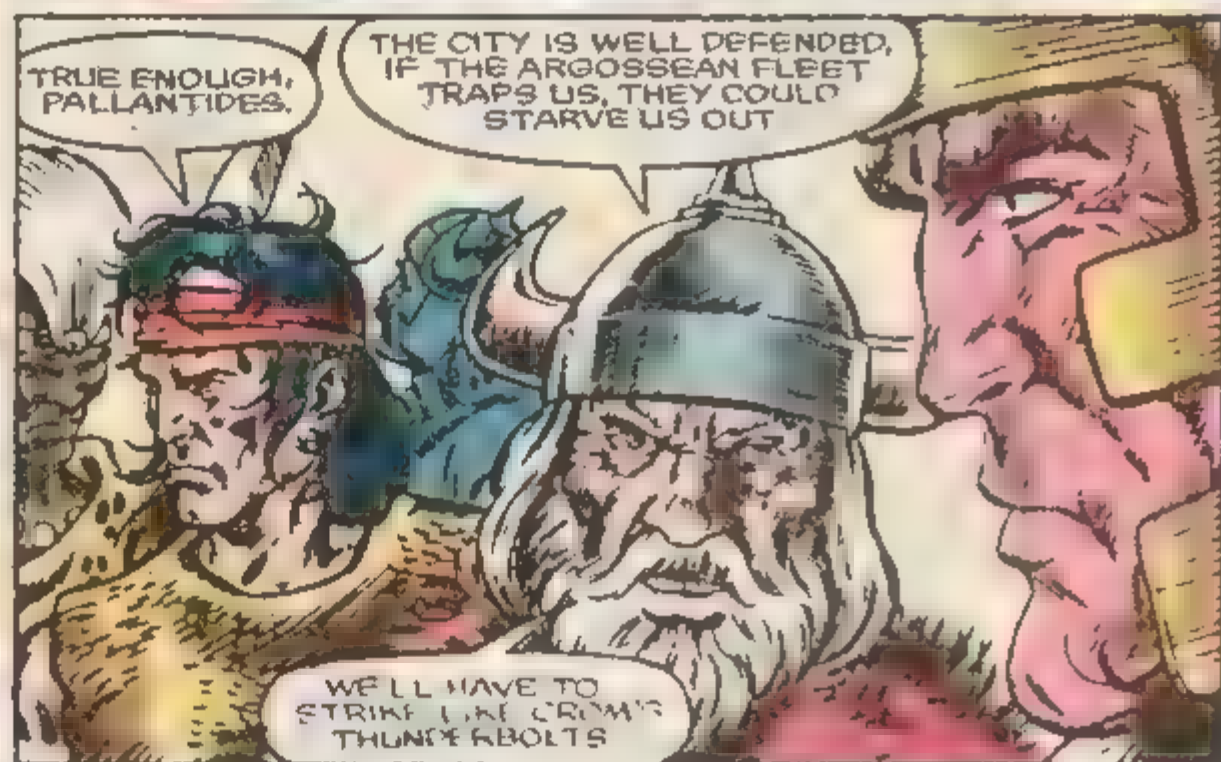
OUR NEW ARMY MUST BEAT KANTAR'S ARMY HERE. THEY'RE HERE IN A LONG SIEGE. ACT SWIFTLY!



LET THE HORSES OUT OF THE LINE AND THE ARCHERS TO THE FRONT. WE'LL BE THE ENEMY LINE'S DUST!

KUAGA, ARE THE MEN OF THE BLACK KINGDOM READY FOR BATTLE?

SOME OF THEM ARE STILL REACK FROM THE STORM CONAN BUT THEY'LL GET BACK THE FIGHTING SPIRIT WHEN THEY HEAR THE CALL TO ARMS.



...THE MAGE CALIASTROS,
THE DEFACTO RULER OF
CORINTHIA, PAYS A VISIT OF
STATE TO KING XANTALUS.

MY FATHER HAD THE
HIGHEST REGARD FOR
YOUR POWERS.

THROUGHOUT
THE HYBORIAN
WORLD YOUR NAME
IS SPOKEN WITH...
REVERENCE.

YOU MEAN *FEAR*,
QUEEN LEORA, LET THAT PASS
NEVERTHELESS, I ASSURE YOU
THAT YOUR FELICITATIONS
WARM MY HEART.

AND YOU, XANTALUS,
ARE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER-- A FOOL!

MUST WE
STAND
FOR THIS,
XANTALUS?

SILENCE, WOMAN!
WE'LL HEAR HIM OUT!

THIS VIXEN
HAS TURNED YOU
INTO HER LAP DOG,
XANTALUS FOR
SHAME

YOU HAVE THE BEARDED
LION OF AQUILONIA AND HE
STANDS TO DEVOUR YOU.
WHY YOU DIDN'T TURN TO
ME FOR HELP, INSTEAD OF
THAT TOAD CRASSUS IS
BEYOND EVEN MY
UNDERSTANDING.

YOU ARE
BOUND
BY TREATY
TO DEFEND
YOUR
ALLIES.

WHAT
WILL YOU DO,
CALIASTROS?

CORINTHIA
IS BOUND BY
A TREATY
WITH OPHIR,
NOT ARGOS.
AND OPHIR
IS NOT
DIRECTLY
THREATENED
BY CONAN--
NOT YET

WE WILL
COME TO THE
AID OF OPHIR.
IT WOULD
ONLY BE
CHIVALRY

UNLESS
YOU COME TO
OUR AID, CONAN
WILL BE AT
THE BORDER
OF OPHIR
SOON.

YES, FROM
ANY OF SEVERAL
DIRECTIONS--FROM
AQUILONIA OR
NEMEDIA -OR EVEN
FROM THE SEA
INDEED, YOU NEED
OUR HELP,
LEORA



THE KINGDOM OF KOTH STANDS READY TO DEFEND OPHIR, QUEEN LEORA JUST SAY THE WORD.

AH, BRAX-AL-THAR, WARLORD OF KOTH, SO YOU FINALLY JOIN US

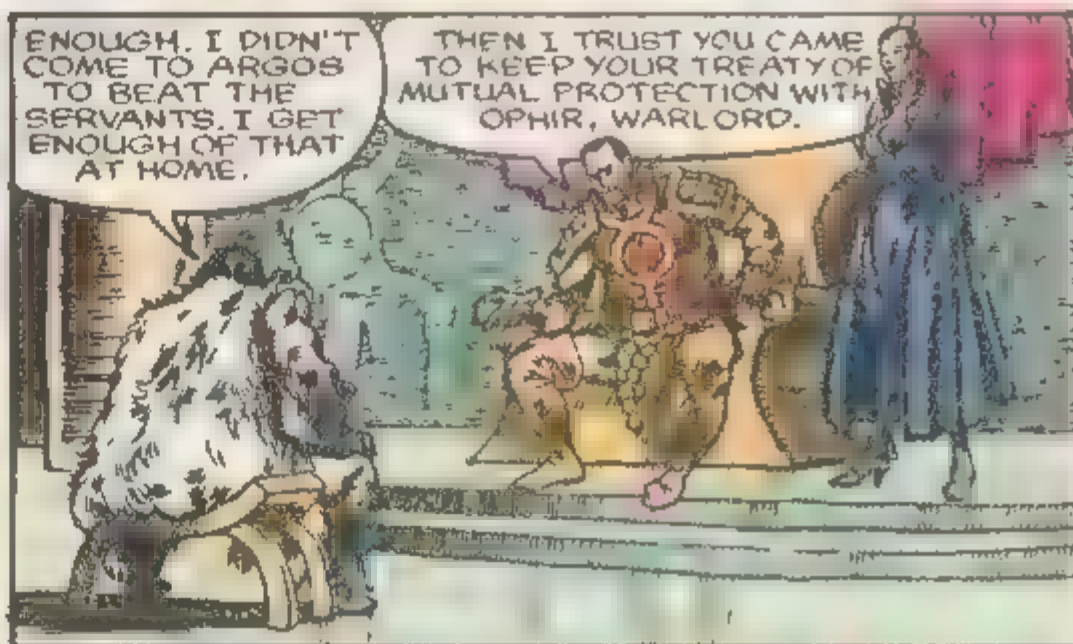
COME, BRAX, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MY DEAR BOY. WHAT'S KEPT YOU?



ONE OF MY SLAVES DID A POOR JOB POLISHING MY ARMOR, SO I BROKE HIS NECK YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD IT, CALIASTROS WHAT A SOUND.

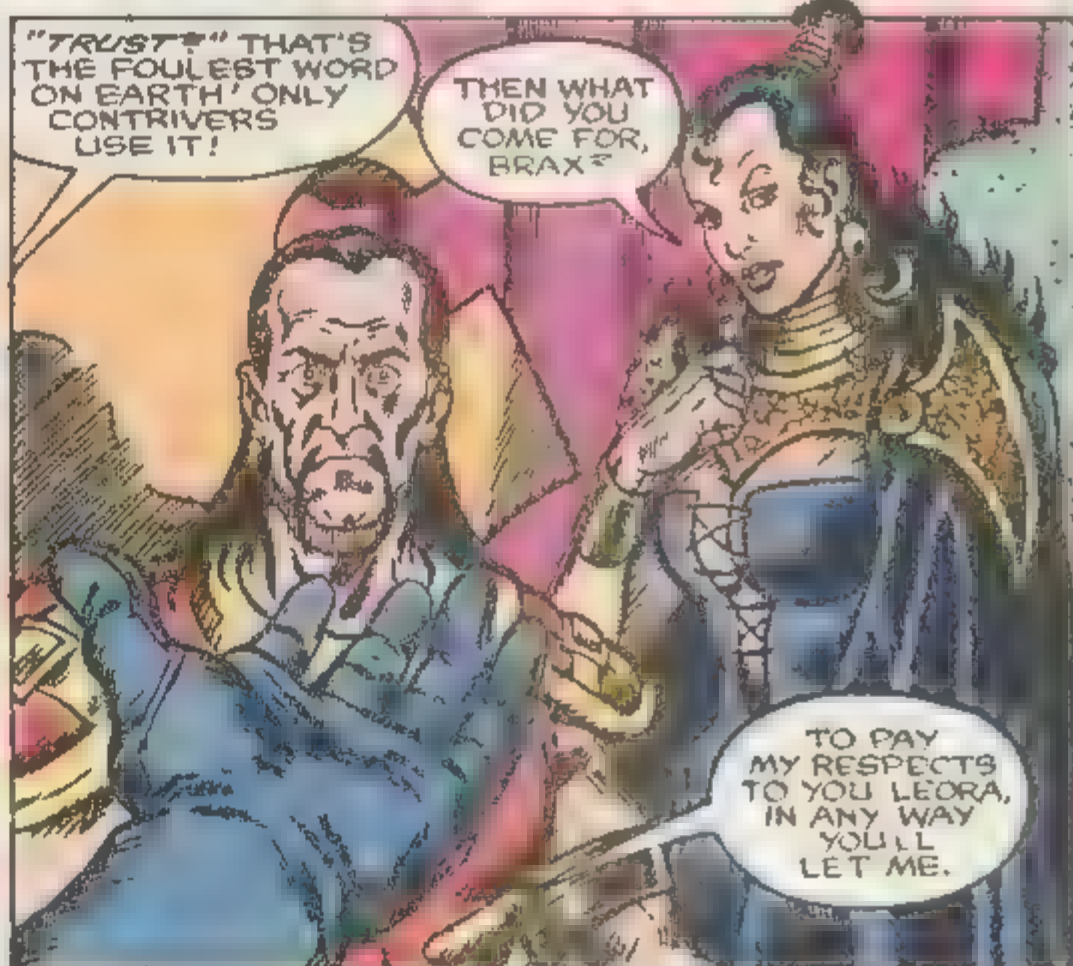
I DON'T DOUBT IT, MY FRIEND. YOUR FATAL CHARM IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE.

BRAX PURGES THE EVIL HUMORS BY BRAINING BABIES.



ENOUGH. I DIDN'T COME TO ARGOS TO BEAT THE SERVANTS. I GET ENOUGH OF THAT AT HOME.

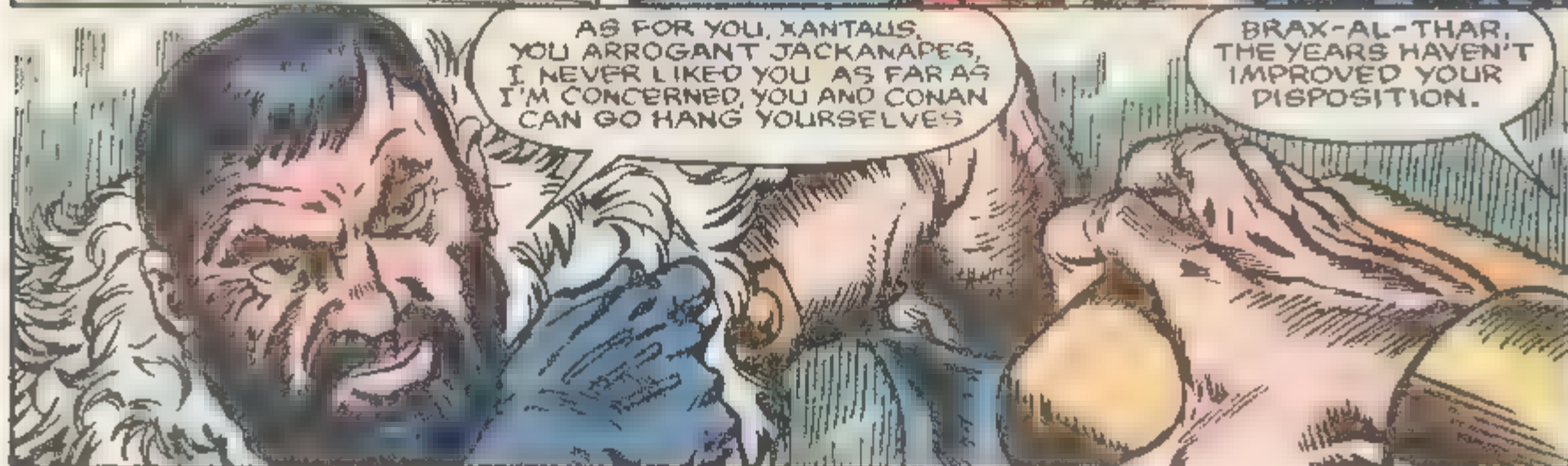
THEN I TRUST YOU CAME TO KEEP YOUR TREATY OF MUTUAL PROTECTION WITH OPHIR, WARLORD.



"TRUST?" THAT'S THE FOULEST WORD ON EARTH' ONLY CONTRIVERS USE IT!

THEN WHAT DID YOU COME FOR, BRAX?

TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO YOU LEORA, IN ANY WAY YOU'LL LET ME.



AS FOR YOU, XANTALUS, YOU ARROGANT JACKANAPES, I NEVER LIKED YOU AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU AND CONAN CAN GO HANG YOURSELVES

BRAX-AL-THAR, THE YEARS HAVEN'T IMPROVED YOUR DISPOSITION.

AND THE YEARS
HAVEN'T TAKEN
YOU TO KNOW
YOUR BETTER
KANTARU NO
WONDER YOUR
KIN IS
THREATENED
LE RA ALLIED
WITH HIM

BRAX, MY
DEAR BOY, I
KNOW HOW
YOU LIKE TO
FRACTURE
YOUR CHARM,
BUT IT'S
SERVING NO
USEFUL
PURPOSE

DON'T
LET HIM
BAIT
YOU

HE WON'T
BULLY ME. AND HE
WON'T TAKE WHAT'S
MINE, YOU
UNDERSTAND?

YOU ARE HONOR
BOUND BY THE
TREATY THEN NO
OF KOTH WILL
WITH MY FATHER,
WARLORD

"HONOR!" HA!
THAT'S THE SECOND
FOULST WARDON
EARTH IT IS THE
WEAKNESS TO
LET OTHER MEN
MAKE
LAWS
OVER
THEM

THE R-SHED
THAT TH
THAT
WITH A
I WILL
DEEDS
TO IN
IN AN
KOTH
CONAN
TAKEN
FEAR
IN THE
CENK

AS FOR THE K
OF KOTH, HE'S A
IMBILILE BUT RE
I LEAVE YOU TO
I'LL GIVE YOU A
LESSON IN
GEOGRAPHY.

WHILE THE
MA
I
CAN ALL
I
NAN
THE
CHENARY
MEN MAY
FEAR HIM
H
CALIA TRIG
HAS FOR
T
DILL AT
MY HANDS

THAT IMBILILE WHO WE ARE THE CROWN
OF KOTH IS STILL SMARTING FROM
THE BEATING CONAN GAVE HIM OVER
TWENTY YEARS AGO BUT I'LL
AVENGE HIM AND THEN I'LL
SEIZE HIS THRONE

BE GONE,
YOU SWAGGERING
BRAGGART, BEFORE
I HAVE YOU
FLOGGED

BRAX-AL-THAR!
YOU'RE NOT A
THE DEATH IS
THE NEXT TO ME

REMEMBER, LEORA, YOUR
FUTURE IS WITH ME. I
LONG TO SERVE YOU.

CONAN'S
ARMADA IS
ON THE WAY,
LEORA

MY FLEET IS MORE
THAN A MATCH FOR
CONAN'S FORCES.

NOW GRAB YOUR
STEEL OR UNFIT,
YOUR BLOOD WON'T
FRIGHTEN ME.

MY LIEGE! MY
LIEGE! CONAN HAS
LANDED! HIS ARMY
IS WITHIN SIGHT
OF OUR WALLS

COME ON
CALIA-THAR
OUR BARGE
AWAIT
LET'S LEAVE
KANTARU
TO THE
MAGNATS

HOW MANY
OF THESE NEW
MANY MEN

THEY SAID
THOUSANDS
UPON
THOUSANDS.

BATTERING
RAM AND
SIEGE TOWERS
FORWARD!

MOVE THE SIEGE
EQUIPMENT FORWARD,
PALLANTIDES. I WANT
THE MAIN GATE
BATTERED DOWN
BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

MANY MEN
WILL DIE
TODAY,
CONAN.

AYE, HAGAN,
SO I'VE
BEEN TOLD.

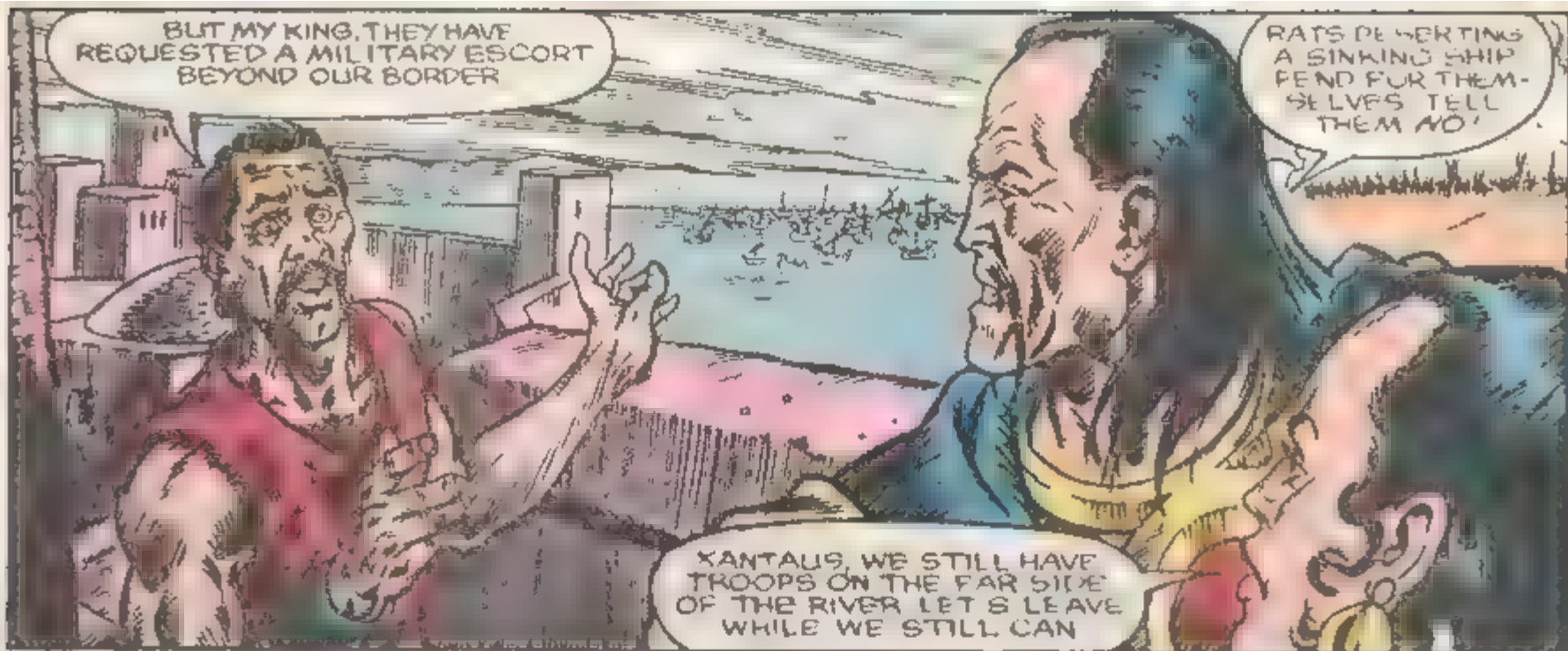
LOOK AT
THE MESSANTIA
THE TABLES ARE
TURNED. CONAN HAS
FOUR MEN TO
OUR ONE.

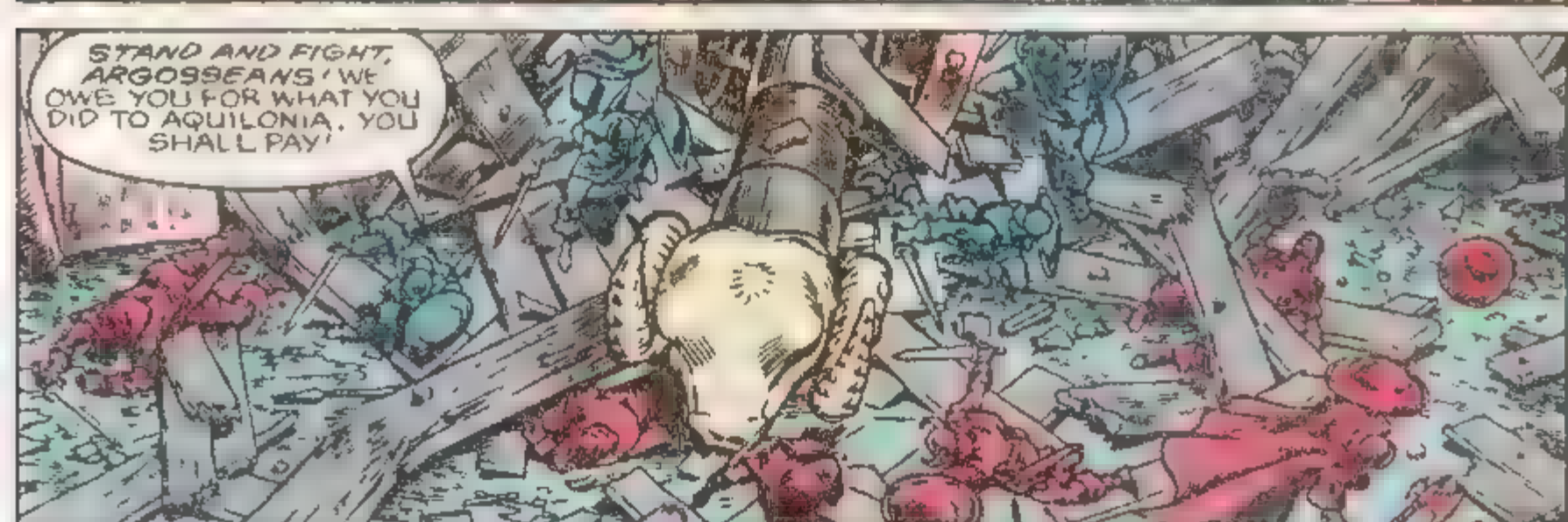
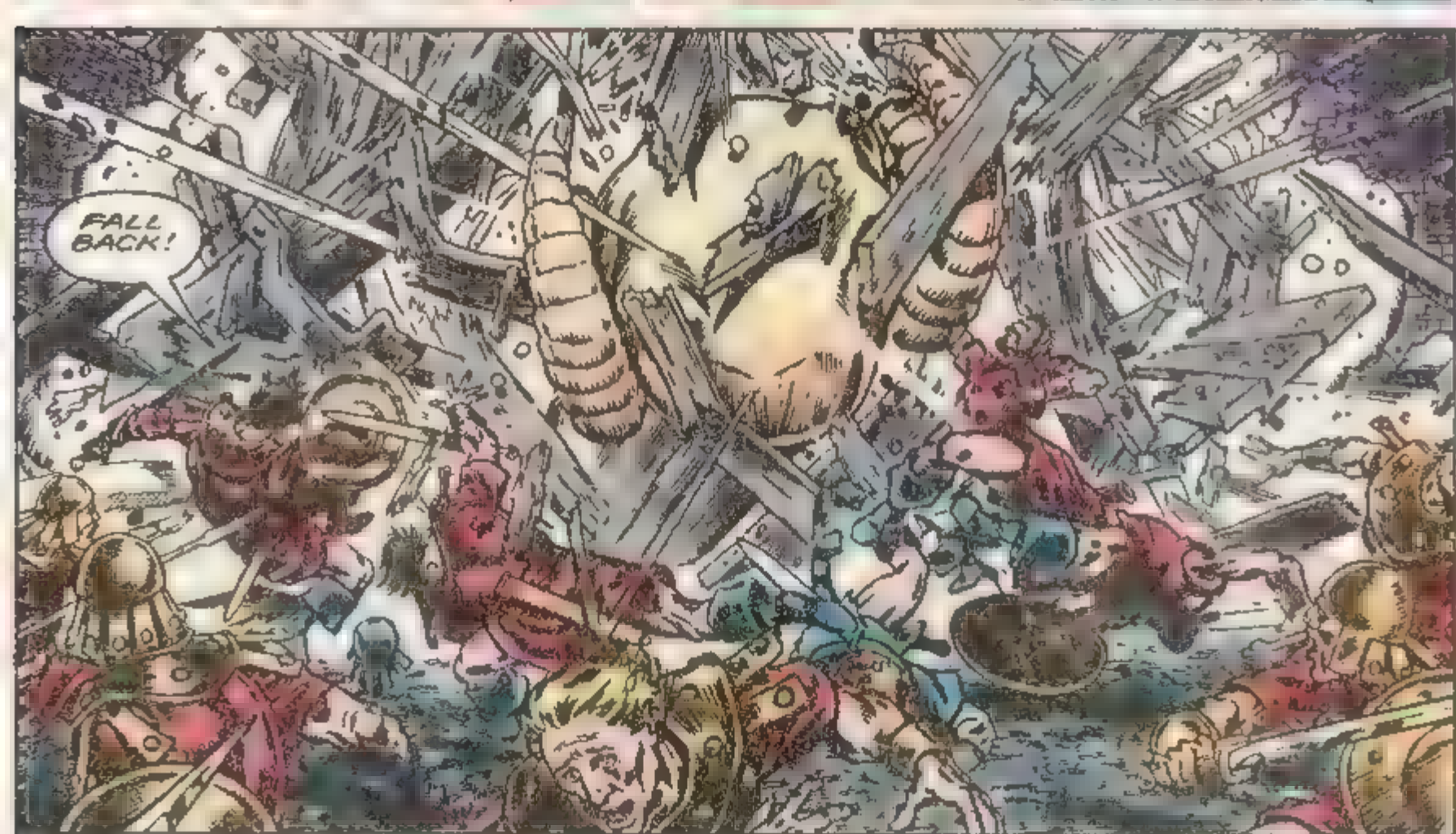
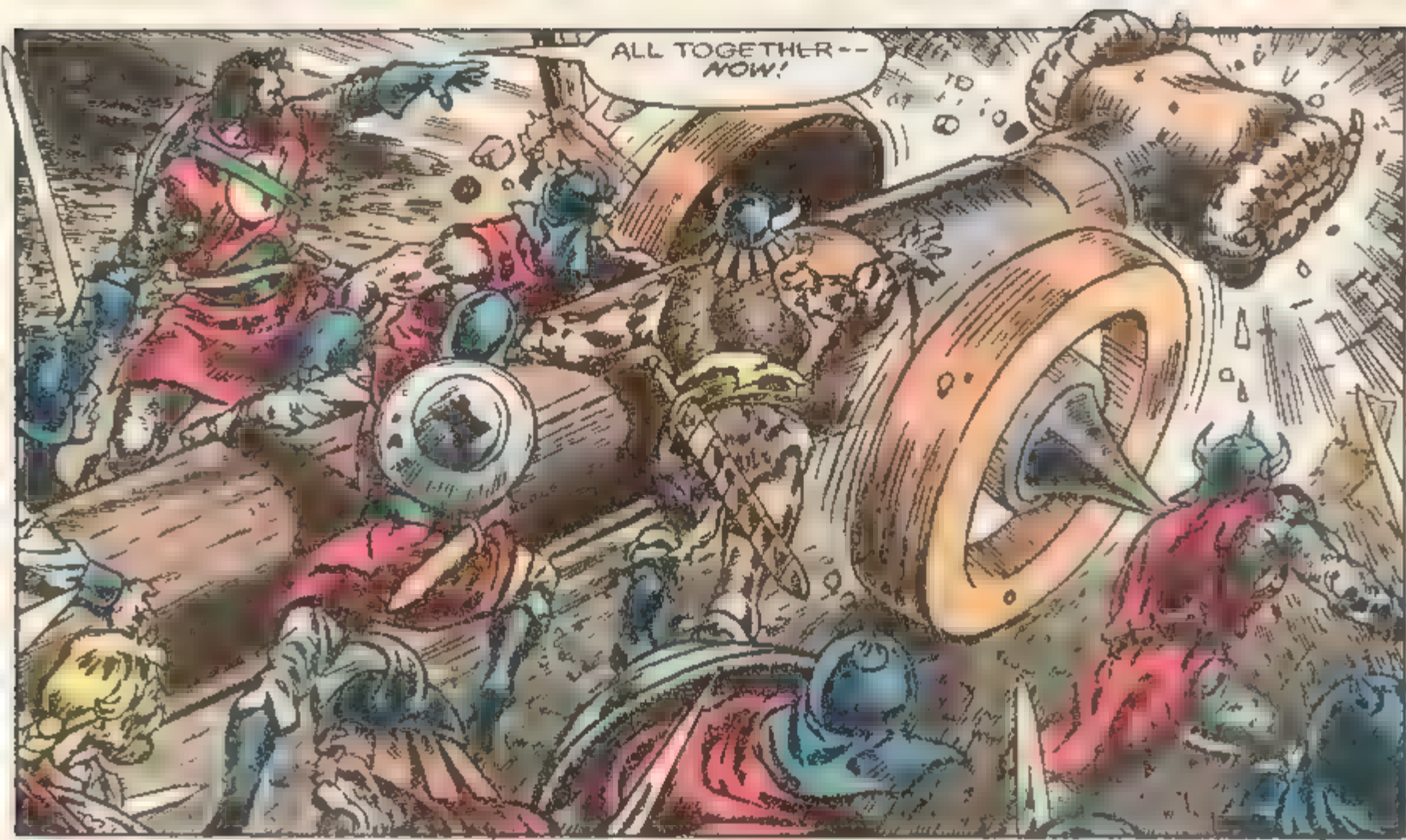
AYE, AQUILONIANS,
CIMMERIANS, AESIRS,
KUSHITES AND ZINGARANS...
TOGETHER, THEY MAKE
UP THE BEST ARMY IN
THE WORLD.

MY LIEGE LORD
CALLIASTROS AND THE
WARLORD OF KOTH AWAIT
YOUR PLEASURE BEFORE
THEY DEPART.

THE WARLORD OF
KOTH CAN WAIT
IN ARALLU.

LISTEN,
XANTAUUS,
IF CONAN'S
TROOPS BREAK
DOWN THE MAIN
GATE, WE MAY
HAVE TO
FLEE THE
CITY.





IN THE GROTTO DEEP BENEATH THE ROYAL PALACE IN MESSANTIA...

CRASSUS, WE CAN NO LONGER PROTECT YOU. WE'RE ESCAPING THROUGH THE LABYRINTH TO REACH THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIVER YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME.

ESCAPE? THERE'S NO ESCAPE. DESTINY HAS ENSNARED US IN ITS WEB.

DO YOU WANT TO DIE HERE? WELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO DIE WITH YOU.

YOU'LL DIE IN ANY EVENT, XANTHUS SO WILL I. BUT NOT BEFORE I HAVE MY REVENGE.

YOU SEE? THE METAMORPHOSIS IS IN THE LAST STAGES. I'LL SHED THIS SKIN. I'LL GROW ANOTHER!

COME TO ME, PRINCE CONN. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WANTS ME MOST OF ALL. COME...

IT'S TIME TO GO, LEORA. IT IS USELESS TRYING TO REASON WITH HIM.

THAT NIGHT

HOW MANY MEN
HAVE WE LOST
PALLANTIDES?

FORTUNATELY
BLESSED FEW,
CONAN YOU DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT A MUTINY
BUT XANTAXUS AND
LEGRATES SAID THE
CITY AND REACHED
THE FAR SIDE OF
THE RIVER

FATHER, WE
COULD HAVE THE
CITY UNDER CONTROL
BY MORNING WITH A
LITTLE LUCK
NOW LET'S FIND
OUR GODS

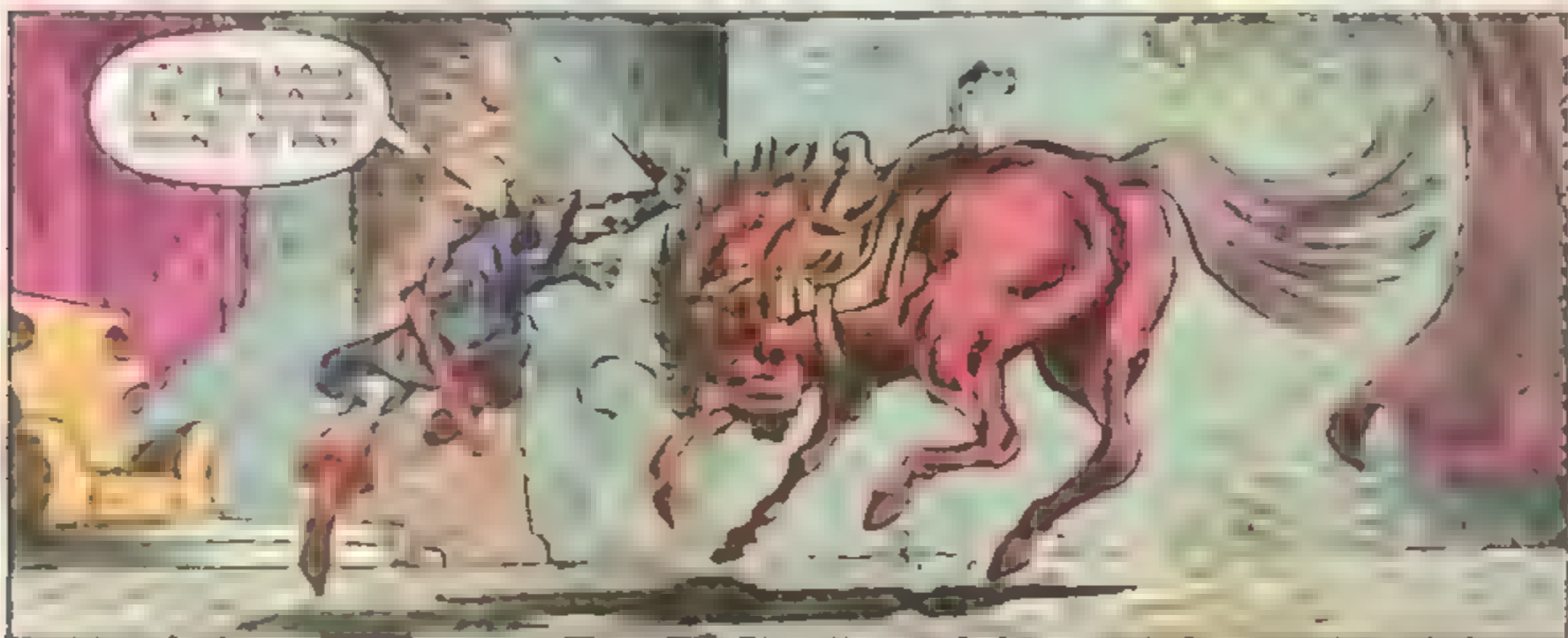
ONE THING
AT A TIME CONAN
WE HAVE TO MOVE
THROUGH A RIVER
THE RIVER NOW
TO ENGAGE THE
ENEMY ON THE
FAR SIDE

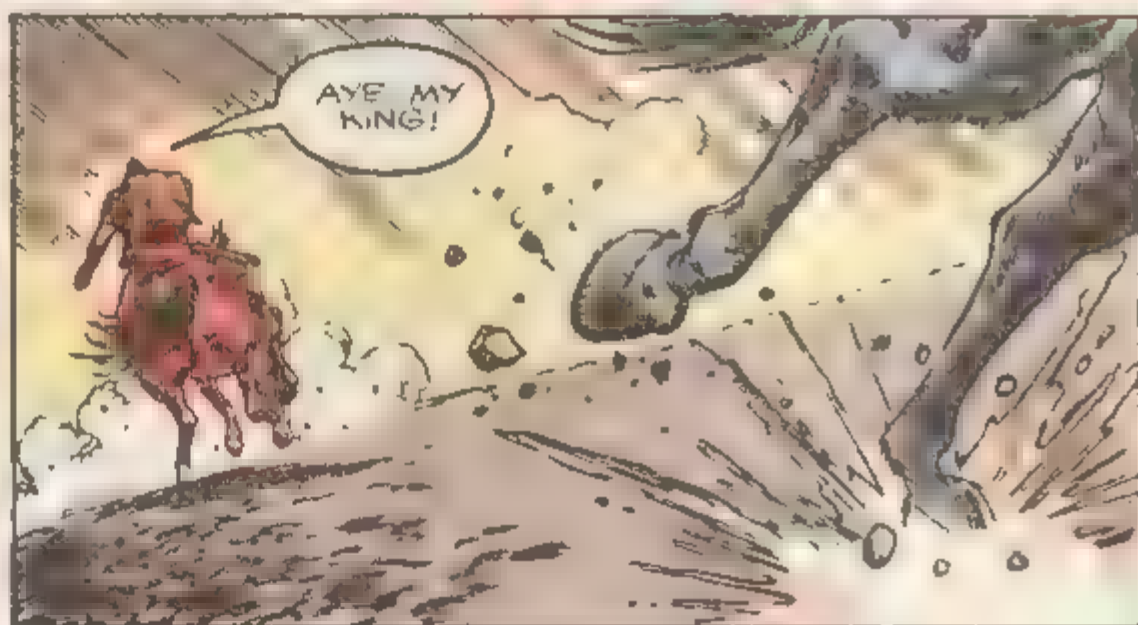
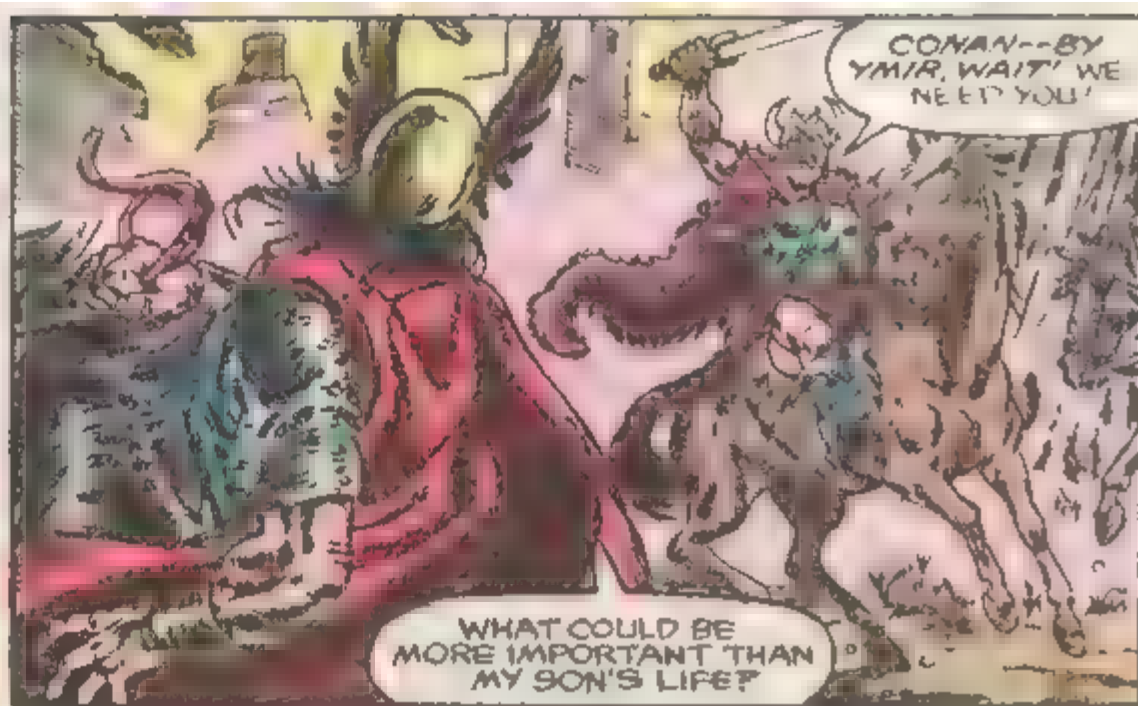
YOUR FATHER IS RIGHT
CONAN WHEN WE HOLD THE
CITY SECURELY AND TRAP
XANTAXUS AND FOR ALL
THE WILL BE IN YET TIME
FOR THAT CITY MAN

HE HAS KILLED
MANY MEN
BUT HE HAS NOT
AND I AM AN TO
FIND HIM

AND I TELL
YOU TO WAIT







IN THE ROYAL PALACE...

SO THAT'S
THE WAY..

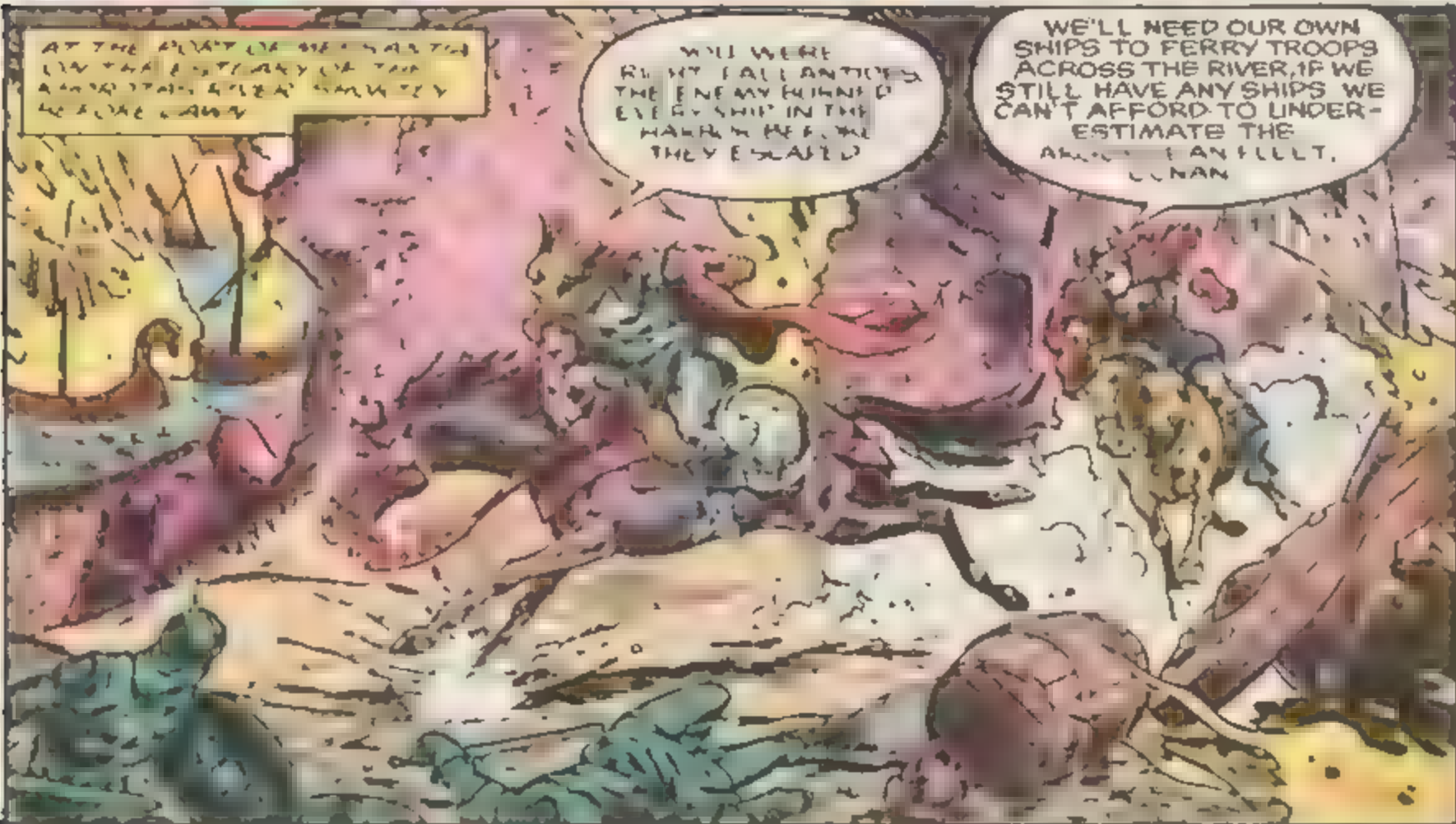
... THE WAY INTO
THE LEGENDARY
LABYRINTH OF THE
ARGOSSEAN KINGS.

I HEAR YOU,
CRASSUS,
AND I LL
FOLLOW.

CONN!

NO,
CONN,
DON'T!

FOR THE
LOVE OF
MITRA,
STOP!





LOOK, CONAN, SHIPS
SAILING INTO THE
HARBOR!

AYE, BUT
WHOSE SHIPS?



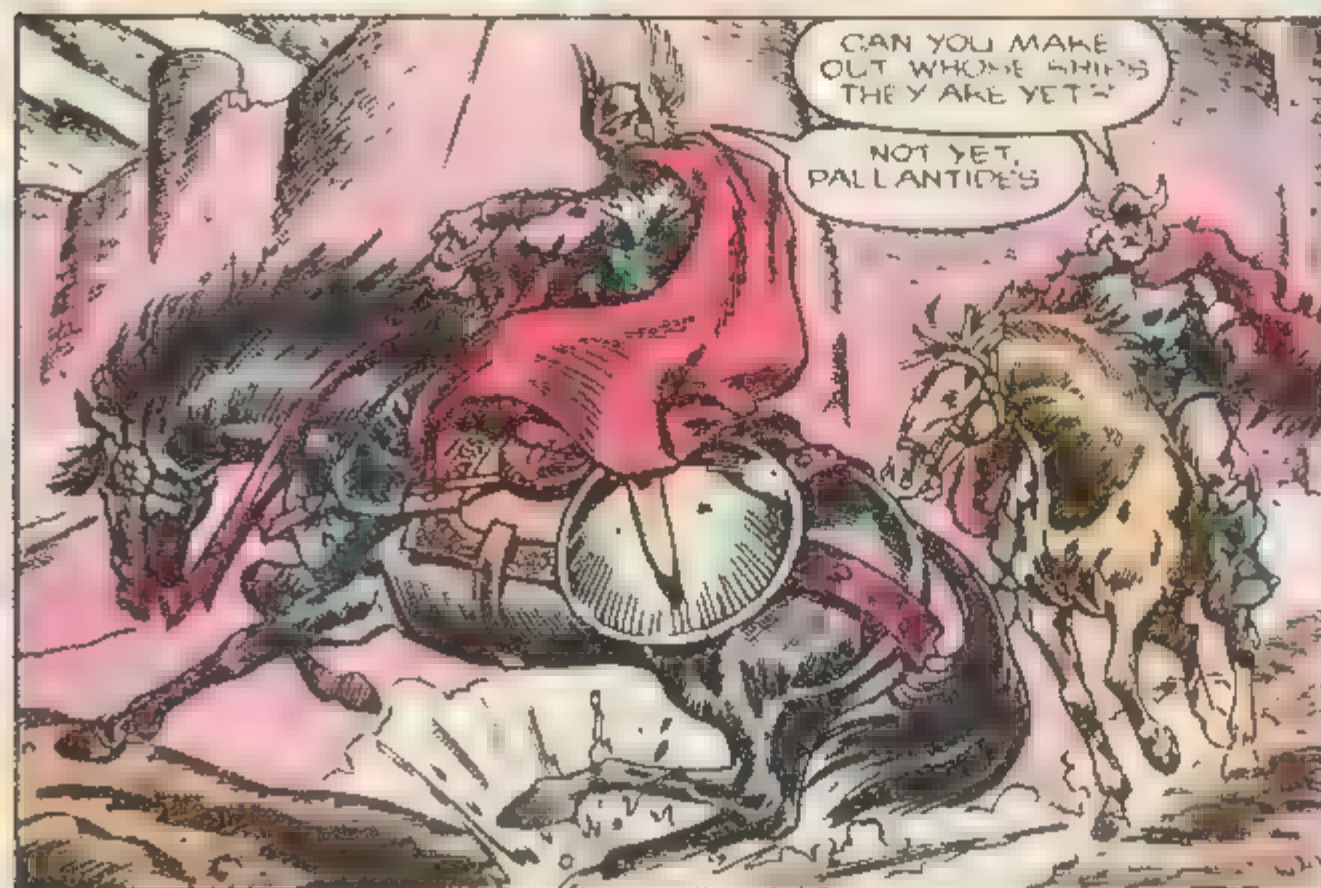
ON THE FAR BANK
OF THE KHOROTAS

SHIPS SAILING
UP THE ESTUARY,
XANTALIS... I SAW
FLAMES AT SEA
JUST BEFORE DAWN.
AS SOON AS WE MAKE
OUT THE COLORS
OF THESE SHIPS,
WE'LL KNOW
WHO WON.

MOVE THOSE
TROOPS TO THE HIGH
GROUND I WANT THE
ESCAPE ROUTE INTO
THE MOUNTAINS
GUARDED IN CASE
WE NEED IT.

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF
THEY'RE MY SHIPS, LEORA.
THEN WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER
CHANCE TO
SMASH CONAN
FOR GOOD.

AND
IF THEY
AREN'T
YOURS?



CAN YOU MAKE
OUT WHOSE SHIPS
THEY ARE YET?

NOT YET,
PALLANTIDES

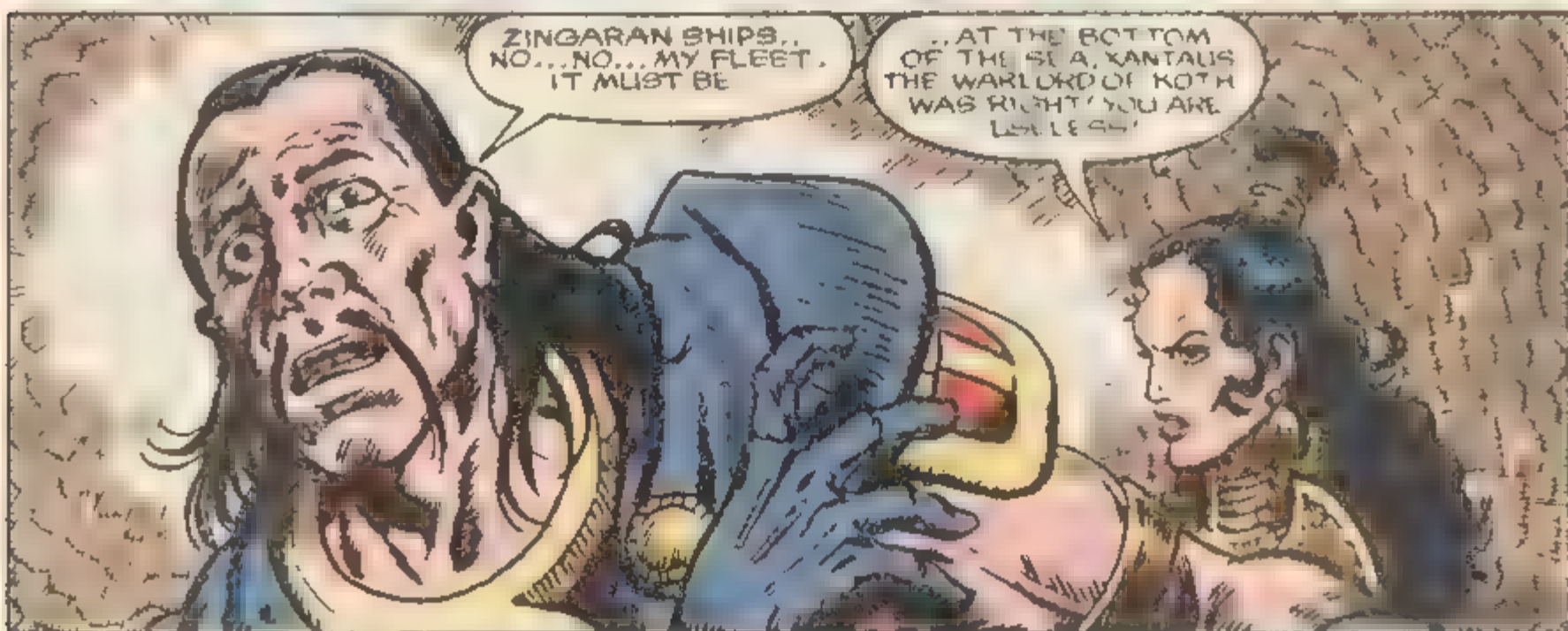


NOW,
BY CROM,
I DO!



ZINGARAN MEN OF WAR!
BY MITRA'S BLOOD,
THEY'RE OURS!

AND SO IS
VICTORY!



ZINGARAN SHIPS...
NO... NO... MY FLEET.
IT MUST BE

...AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE SEA, KANTALUS
THE WARLORD OF KOTH
WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE
LOSER!



BE NEATH THE
ROYAL PALACE
IN MESSANTIA

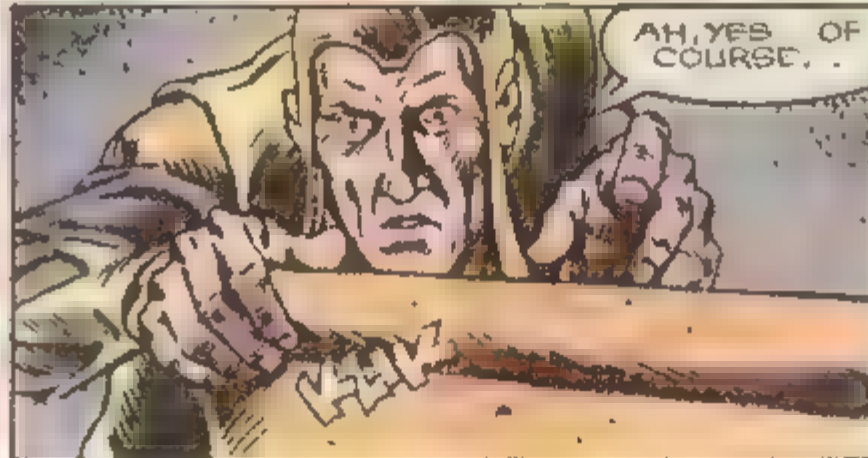
CRASSUS,
WHERE
ARE YOU
HIDING?



THERE MUST
BE A LEVER OF
SOME KIND TO
OPEN IT.



THERE ALMOST
CERTAINLY HAS
TO BE ONE ON
THIS SIDE OF
THE PANEL, BUT
WHERE...



AH, YES. OF
COURSE...



I MUST
FIND CONN
IN THE
LABYRINTH

DEEP WITHIN THE
LABYRINTH.

HURRY,
PRINCE
CONN.

MAKE
HASTE, BOY,
I'VE BEEN
MORE THAN
PATIENT.

CRASSUS.

WELCOME,
PRINCE
CONN.

WHO WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK

"HUMAN?"
YOU DON'T
RECOGNIZE ME
AT ALL, DO YOU?
COME CLOSER
HAVE A BETTER
LOOK THEN.

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE ULTIMATE EFFECT
OF THE SPELL KNOWN AS "THE BLOOD OF THE
SERPENT", DO YOU? NEITHER DID I IN THE
BEGINNING. BUT I LEARNED

AND NOW I
NO LONGER
RESEMBLE
THE MAN YOU
KNEW AS
CRASSUS.

SO THIS IS WHAT
HAS BECOME OF YOU.
IT SMELLS OF DEATH
IN HERE

MORNING ON THE DOCKS
OF MESSANTIA...

PALLANTIDES. I KNOW THE
MEN ARE TIRED, BUT WE HAVE
TO TRAP XANTHAUS TODAY
OR WE NEVER WILL.

AYE, IN TIME
TO FEED XANTHAUS TO
THE VULTURES!

THEY'RE AFTER US, LEORA. THERE
ISN'T FAR WE CAN RUN NOW IT MUST
BE OUR DESTINY TO DIE TOGETHER.

THEN WE WON'T
DO IT RUNNING
AWAY, XANTHAUS

...NOT
TOGETHER,
MY LOVE

PRAISE BE
TO THE GODS!
THEY'VE GIVEN
US A CHANCE
TO DIE LIKE
SOLDIERS!

WITHIN THE LABYRINTH...

CONN...
CONN,
ANSWER
ME!

YOU SAY
IT SMELLS
OF DEATH IN
HERE, MY
PRINCE?

VOICES...

THE
REASON
IS VERY
SIMPLE...

THE SPELL
I USED TO GAIN
GREATER POWERS
NOT ONLY CAUSES A
METAMORPHOSIS--
IT IS ALWAYS
FATAL!

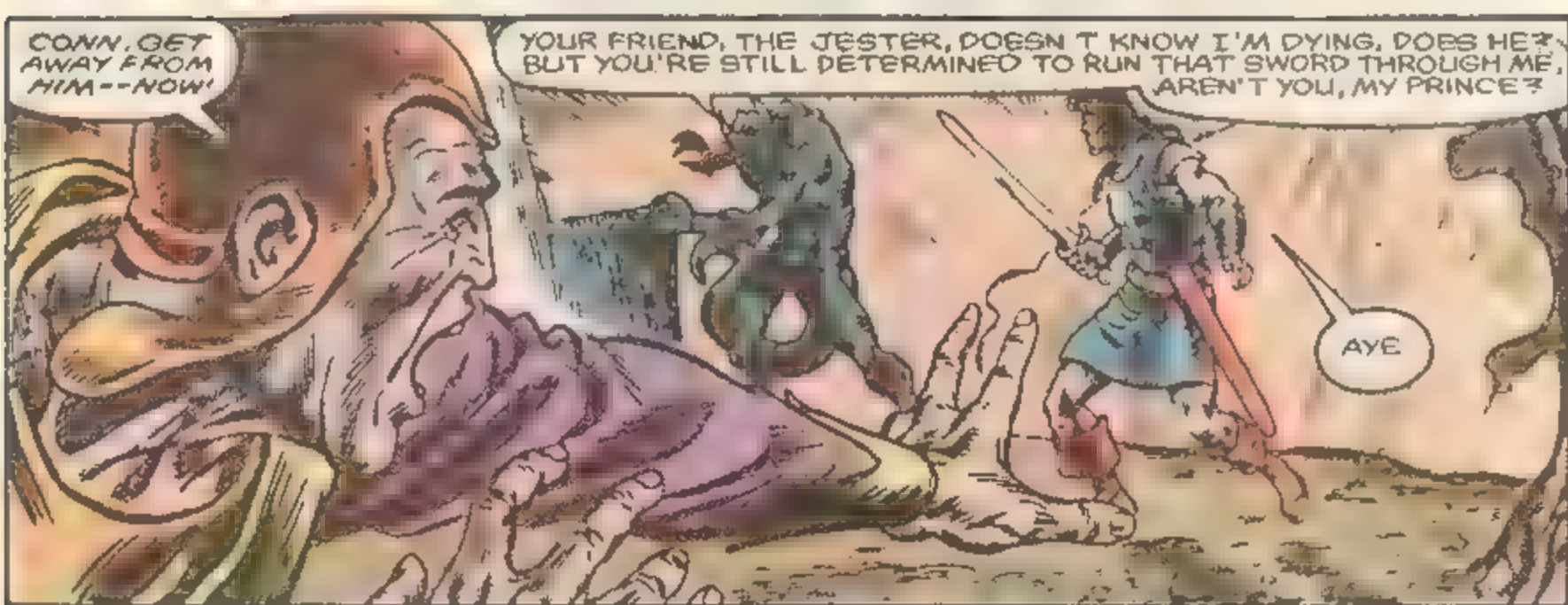
COME
CLOSER! LOOK
AT ME! I'M
DYING I CAN'T
HURT YOU

THE
SKIN IS
PEELING
OFF.

YES, IT'S DISTURBING
WHEN IT STARTS TO
HAPPEN, BUT IT
DOESN'T HURT

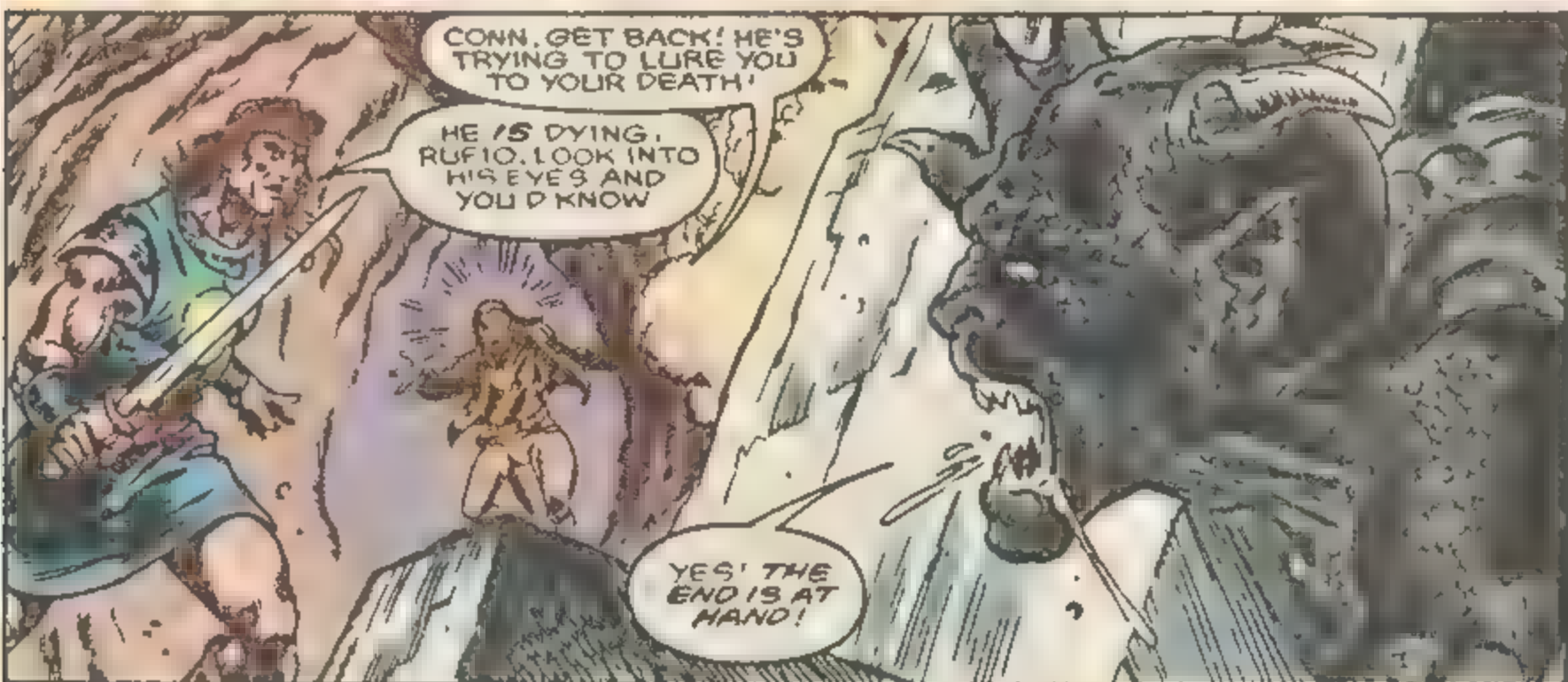
IT'S THE OTHER
CHANGES THAT
ARE PAINFUL ONE
BY ONE EVERY PART
OF MY BODY
CHANGED...

... I AM NOT THE MAN I
USED TO BE. I AM NO LONGER
A MAN AT ALL!



YOUR FRIEND, THE JESTER, DOESN'T KNOW I'M DYING. DOES HE? BUT YOU'RE STILL DETERMINED TO RUN THAT SWORD THROUGH ME, AREN'T YOU, MY PRINCE?

AYE



CONN, GET BACK! HE'S TRYING TO LURE YOU TO YOUR DEATH!

HE IS DYING, RUFIO. LOOK INTO HIS EYES AND YOU'D KNOW

YES! THE END IS AT HAND!



LGMHH-- AENHEEEEEAAHHN...

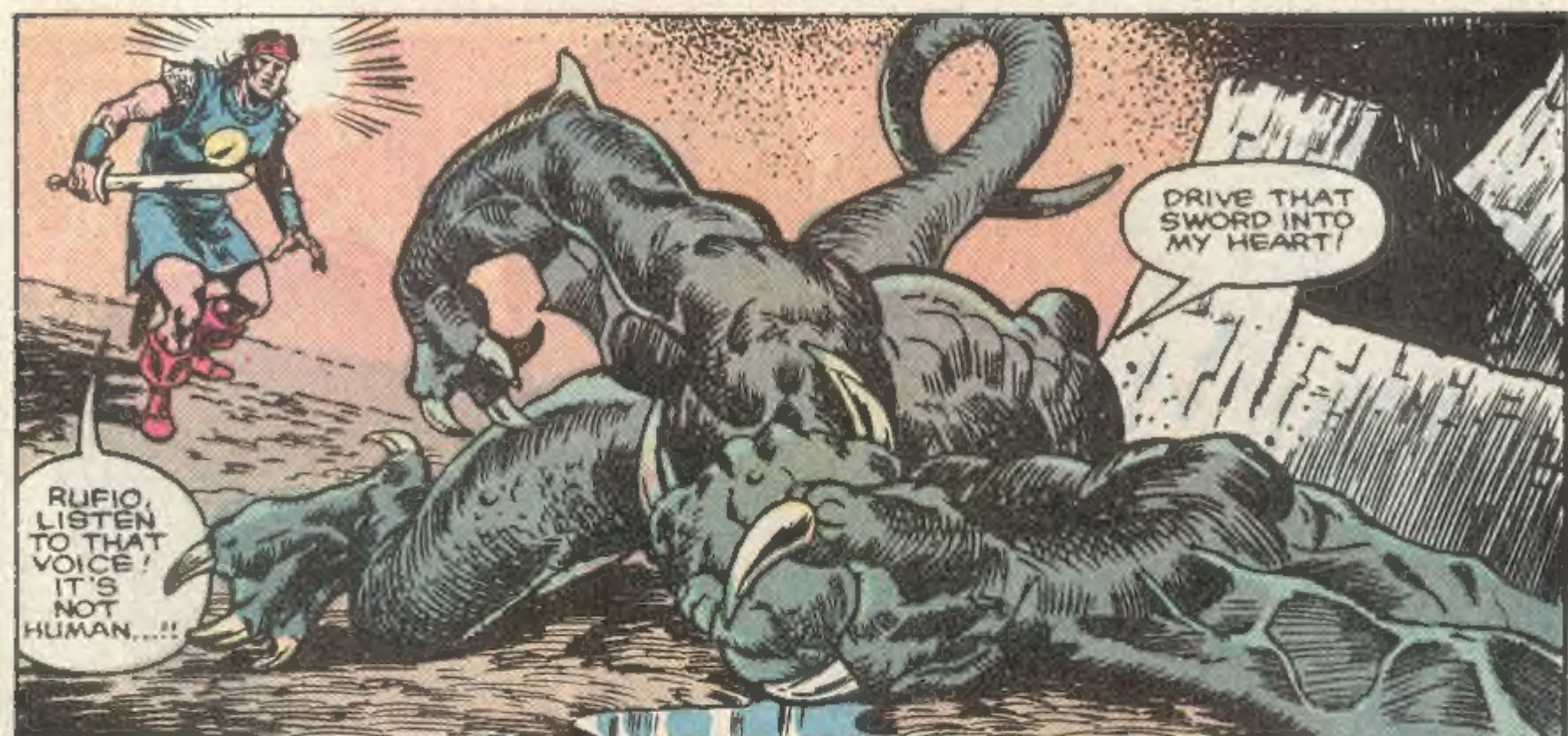


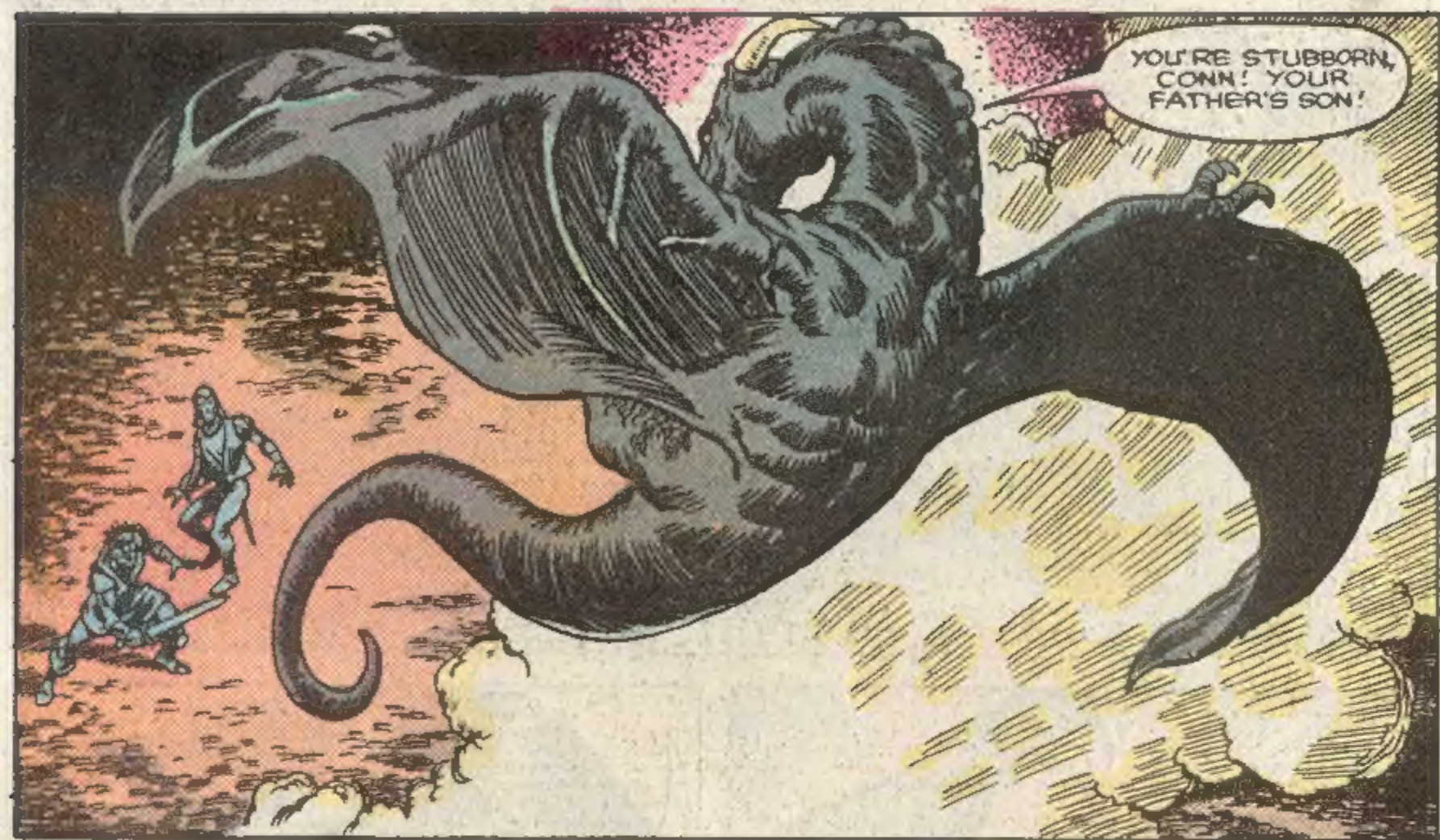
LISTEN TO THOSE SCREAMS, RUFIO HE'S IN AGONY.

NOTHING HUMAN ABOUT THOSE SCREAMS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



URGGHHN-- UHHHHN...









CONTINUED IN ISSUE #43--

CONQUEST